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Kozyrev, Grachev To Oversee START Ratification

LD0502140293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1334 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, 5 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has appointed Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev as his representatives during the examination in the Russian Supreme Soviet of the question of the ratification of the treaty on the further reduction and limitation of strategic offensive armaments, which was signed with the United States on 3 January, 1993.

START II Said To Lessen Strategic Stability

MK0502130593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Feb 93 p 4

[Oleg Georgiyev "Opinion" article: "START II Has No Parallels. But It Offers Plenty of Grounds for Criticism"]

[Text] The decision on the complete elimination of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM's) equipped with multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles (MIRV) appears highly dubious. Throughout the existence of the Soviet Union's strategic missile forces, land-based missiles formed the basis of its strategic might. Under a memorandum signed in connection with the START I Treaty, ICBM's account for about 64 percent of the total number of strategic nuclear weapons, with MIRVed ICBM's accounting for 58 percent. There are no grounds for thinking that these figures have changed substantially in recent times. Consequently, in the next 10 years Russia will lose more than half its strategic nuclear potential, which was created at the cost of tremendous efforts by the entire people over several decades.

The predominant reliance on land-based ICBM's in the structure of our strategic forces is no accident. It was determined not only by historical and economic factors, but also by geostrategic conditions. Russia is basically a continental state with a very small number of ice-free basing facilities guaranteeing the possibility of missile-armed submarines putting to sea year-round. Those facilities that exist are under close American scrutiny. In this connection a recent incident springs to mind, when there was a collision between a submarine of ours and an American one which was on a reconnaissance mission in our territorial waters. There are also other reasons why sea-based missile forces play a less important role in Russia's strategic nuclear forces. One could cite, in particular, the relatively small potential for their production, servicing, and maintenance; the considerably lower proportion of submarines on patrol at any given time than is the case for the United States; the U.S. superiority in matters of waging antisubmarine warfare; and finally the higher cost of building and operating a missile-armed submarine compared with the same number of land-based missiles as the submarine would carry.

People say that stationary MIRVed ICBM's are the most destabilizing weapons, because by virtue of their invulnerability coupled with their considerable combat capabilities—each missile can destroy several targets—they create the desire, in a crisis, to use them before they can be destroyed, and this, it is said, gives rise to the danger that each side will decide to inflict a first strike so as not to lose these "valuable" missiles. Evidently this reasoning contains an element of truth, but not the whole truth.

It is common knowledge that MIRVed ICBM's stationed at hardened launch silos possess the utmost combat readiness, and their command posts are equipped with communications and command-and-control systems that ensure that combat signals and commands are reliably conveyed to those who have to execute them. As a result there is no pressing reason necessarily to use these missiles in the first (preemptive) strike. They can be launched when information on the other side's missile launches has been received from the warning systems, checked, and confirmed, but while the missile warheads are still in flight and have not reached their targets. In this case it follows that stationary MIRVed ICBM's possess a mighty potential to deter the other side from ill-considered actions, and that they can be regarded not only as a destabilizing factor, but also as a highly effective stabilizing factor.

Another point. Since the commitment on the non-first-use of nuclear weapons retains its force for the Russian Federation as successor to the USSR, with regard to its MIRVed ICBM's arguments about their highly destabilizing role are of a purely theoretical, not a practical, nature.

People also say that by the year 2003 Russia will not have any MIRVed ICBM's anyway, because the guaranteed life of the missiles presently on duty will have expired by then and the manufacture of new missiles is deemed inexpedient in the light of the developing economic situation and the fact that the manufacturing base for a several of these missiles is in Ukraine. It is concluded from this that Russia's consent to the complete elimination of MIRVed ICBM's is only a reflection of the natural process of such missiles "dying out." But this is stretching a point too.

Missile building in our country has seen several examples of the original guaranteed service life of missile technology being extended considerably on the basis of experience in operation and comprehensive checking while in service. With regard to MIRVed ICBM's, for some reason, the possibility of this approach is not even being considered. Nor is anything said about the fact that the renunciation of MIRVed ICBM's does not mean that ICBM production will cease in Russia—it is envisaged that the manufacture of RS-12M (SS-25) single-warhead missiles will continue. And while we are talking about economic matters, it is worth pointing out that in terms of "cost effectiveness" MIRVed ICBM's are superior to all the other strategic systems.

The package of decisions on heavy bombers also prompts serious concern. On the one hand, an agreement has been reached which meets our interests, namely counting, on a heavy bomber, the number of nuclear weapons with which it is actually equipped. On the other hand, it is permitted to have up to 100 heavy bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons, but which have been "converted for the fulfillment of nonnuclear tasks." In view of the fact that in reality only the American side can take advantage of this opportunity, if necessary the United States could, rapidly and with no additional expenditure, increase its nuclear potential by 1,600-2,000 weapons on the basis of heavy bombers alone. If you take into account that long-range sea-based nuclear cruise missiles and American forward-based nuclear systems remain outside the SALT II Treaty's sphere of operation, the U.S. superiority appears even more formidable.

In connection with the large-scale reductions and radical structural reorganization of Russia's strategic nuclear forces prescribed by the START II Treaty, the following questions also arise: First—will these strategic forces retain their deterrent capability, that is, will they be able to inflict unacceptable damage on an aggressor in a retaliatory strike, even in the most unfavorable circumstances—a surprise nuclear attack; second—will strategic stability be strengthened or weakened as a result of implementation of the treaty's provisions?

After the treaty's implementation the basis of Russia's strategic nuclear forces would be—as in the United States—nuclear submarines carrying ballistic missiles. Unlike the United States, however, which has approximately two-thirds of its submarines permanently on patrol in the world's oceans, the proportion of Russia's submarines on patrol is considerably lower. And submarines in their moorings are a far more easily accessible and attractive target than dispersed, hardened ICBM launch silos. Therefore, on a surprise nuclear attack, Russia can count on using in a retaliatory strike only the few missile-armed submarines that are at sea at the moment of attack.

Under the terms of the START II Treaty mobile missile complexes would account for a significant proportion of Russia's land-based missile forces. However, under the provisions of the START I Treaty considerable restrictions are imposed on the possibility of moving them. That is, in normal conditions these complexes are based relatively close together in specific locations, and there is little reason to suppose that they (or at least most of them) could survive a surprise nuclear attack.

If you take into account that the joint U.S.-Canadian North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) covers the whole of U.S. territory against bombers, including those armed with long-range cruise missiles, it becomes clear that doubts about the capability of Russia's strategic nuclear forces to inflict an effective retaliatory strike after the fulfillment of reductions under the START II Treaty are well founded.

Doubts are also aroused by unsubstantiated claims that strategic stability will be strengthened as a result of the START II Treaty's implementation. The structure and state of Russia's strategic nuclear forces are taking a form such that the other side would have the opportunity, with a relatively small number of nuclear strikes or even without the use of nuclear weapons, to destroy a significant proportion of Russia's strategic arms. Whether this opportunity will be taken is another question, but there can be no doubt that it would be exploited as a means of exerting political pressure on any convenient occasion.

U.S. activity in the sphere of ABM defense is also continuing to adversely affect stability. In accordance with present plans, the United States will deploy in the early 2000's an ABM defense of its territory capable of intercepting about 1,000 strategic ballistic missile warheads. So a weakened retaliatory strike will present no real danger to the United States, that is to say, the Russian Federation's strategic nuclear forces will lose all their deterrent potential.

The recently signed treaty makes wide use of the provisions of the START I Treaty and associated documents, and this seems justified in view of the tight schedule for drafting START II. At the same time, evidence of hasty work is constantly encountered in the treaty's text. This can be seen in the insufficiently clear wording of some points; in the fact that Russia is allowed to reduce the countable number of warheads from six to one on only 105 of its RS-18 (SS-19) ICBM's; in the fact that only our heavy ICBM's are subject to compulsory destruction; and, finally, in the fact that the new treaty does not include a commitment by the sides to continue talks on further strategic offensive arms reductions. This last seems highly significant, because some people in the United States hastened to declare that the START II Treaty is a document marking the completion of U.S. and Russian efforts in the nuclear disarmament sphere.

Deputy Foreign Ministers To Discuss Dniester Region

LD0302224693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2215 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau, 4 Feb—The Moldovan Foreign Ministry press service revealed that a meeting in Chisinau of deputy foreign ministers of Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, and Romania is planned for 13 February. Developments in Moldova's eastern regions are to be discussed at the meeting and ways are to be worked out to find a peaceful settlement of the Dniester Region conflict.

Kravchuk Meets Politicians, Businessmen at Davos Forum

LD0402210093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1618 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] As we have already reported, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has taken part in the work of the World Economic Forum in Davos and spoke at two sittings. Meetings also took place within the framework of the forum between the president of Ukraine and heads of a number of states and governments, as well as representatives of business circles of Switzerland and other countries.

The intensification of bilateral economic cooperation was discussed with Bulgarian President Zhelev. Accords were reached regarding the conclusion of a long-term trade and economic agreement between the two states. The leaders of Ukraine and Bulgaria paid significant attention to the problems of developing mutual relations between countries of the Black Sea region.

Two meetings with Hanna Suchocka, prime minister of the Republic of Poland, took place during which the state of Ukrainian-Polish relations was broadly examined. Hanna Suchocka emphasized that Poland regards deepening friendly contacts between the two countries as one of the high priority directions of its foreign policy. It was noted that two such large European states as Ukraine and Poland should fulfill the role of a stabilizing factor on the continent.

Leonid Kravchuk met Sali Berisha, president of the Republic of Albania, for the first time. It was emphasized during the course of the conversation that Ukraine is interested in developing cooperation with Albania in the political, trade, economic, scientific and technical, cultural, and other spheres. The president of Albania gratefully accepted an invitation to visit Ukraine.

During a meeting with the president of Ukraine, Teufel, president of the German land of Baden-Wuerttemberg, proposed extending considerable economic cooperation with Ukraine.

Accords regarding cooperation in banking matters were reached with (Senna), chairman of the executive council of the Union of Swiss Banks.

Well-known businessmen from the United States, India, Sweden, Japan, and Switzerland submitted large-scale economic projects for examination by the president of Ukraine during their meeting. Leonid Kravchuk assured them that all of these projects will be examined effectively in the relevant Ukrainian departments.

Leonid Kravchuk visited the headquarters of several large concerns where the possibilities of establishing economic cooperation between them and Ukraine were discussed in detail.

During numerous meetings with representatives of the mass media the president of Ukraine elucidated the main directions of the internal and external policies of our state. In particular, he explained the position regarding nuclear weapons, and relations with member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Grachev's Visits to Tashkent, Dushanbe Detailed

PM0802111193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Astafyev and Anatoliy Stasovskiy: "Russian Defense Minister in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan"]

[Text] On the evening of 3 February Army General Pavel Grachev, the Russian defense minister, met with Lieutenant General Rustam Akhmedov, the Uzbek defense minister, in Tashkent.

Yelena Agapova, the defense minister's public relations and press assistant, stated that the sides had managed to agree on certain questions of military technical cooperation and the joint use of strategically important installations on Uzbek territory in the interests of the states parties to the Collective Security Treaty.

They also discussed questions connected with the performance of military service by Russian servicemen in Uzbekistan and by Uzbeks in Russia.

Replying during a brief interview to a journalist's question on the fate of the 201st Division in Tajikistan, Pavel Grachev noted that it will soon be reorganized. Since Russian citizens can now serve in that division only on a voluntary basis and volunteers are few and far between, the division will probably be reformed as a brigade or even as a separate regiment.

On the same day the Russian minister was received by Islam Karimov, president of Uzbekistan. During the conversation, it has emerged, they discussed questions to do with ensuring peace and security in the southern region in accordance with the Collective Security Treaty concluded in Bishkek by the heads of six states and also discussed a number of problems affecting the interests of Russia and Uzbekistan.

On 4 February Army Gen Pavel Grachev left Tashkent for the Tajik capital. His talks with Emomali Rakhmonov, chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet, began behind closed doors.

In an interview for journalists in Tajikistan the Russian defense minister noted that the main aim of his visit to Dushanbe was to resolve regional questions and the fate of the 201st Motorized Rifle Division, a radiotechnical brigade, an air defense missile regiment, and other military units of the Russian Armed Forces stationed in Tajikistan. Army Gen Pavel Grachev is planning to meet with command personnel, officers, and men of the Russian military units during his visit.

Dniester-Abkhazia Treaty Termed 'Unlawful'

LD0502132093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The treaty between the Dniester Republic and Abkhazia is deemed to be illegal and unlawful as well as a violation of the commonly accepted principles and norms of international law in a statement circulated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova.

This treaty is also assessed in a similar manner in a statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Aleksandr Chikvaidze, head of the foreign political department, sharply condemns this—quote—unprecedented act, which is not backed up by the force of law.

New Interstate TV, Radio Company Chief Interviewed

PM0402100393 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 1

[Interview with Gadilbek Shalakhmetov, chairman of the interstate television and radio company, by Ye. Dotsuk; place and date of interview not given: "To Moscow, to Wintry Apartments"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Gadilbek Shalakhmetov, who used to work as leader of Kazakh television, was recently appointed chairman of the new Interstate Television and Radio Company.

[Dotsuk] Gadilbek Minazhevich, until recently your Ostankino work certificate signed by Ye. Yakovlev showed you as holding the post of first deputy chairman...

[Shalakhmetov] Yes, that was the case according to the initial plan for work on the company's creation. Yakovlev suggested transforming "Ostankino" to become this company. But later the situation changed. Russia declared "Ostankino" to be its own property. So now an interstate property will be created in the form of a new television and radio company. With a large amount of help from "Ostankino," of course.

[Dotsuk] The idea of a single information area has begun to be implemented?

[Shalakhmetov] Yes, that is so. If you remember, according to N. Nazarbayev's suggestion in October last year in Bishkek eight presidents of CIS states agreed to create such a structure. And on 22 January in Minsk, Armenia, Belarus, Tatarstan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan signed the charter of the Interstate Television and Radio Company. It is a kind of Intervideniye for the CIS.

Turkmenia and Ukraine did not sign the documents. Actually, they have not signed any CIS documents at all. But as far as I know Ukraine was very interested in taking part in the company because our joint-stock company of the closed type could at any moment assume an open form.

[Dotsuk] How will the new company's structure be formed?

[Shalakhmetov] All the republics intend to work for it, to invest funds, and to send items. According to the preliminary plans we will be on the air five to 10 hours a week on the first channel. All participants in the company have an equal right to go on the air and the right to show events from their regions without corrections. We have already begun to form the headquarters in Moscow.

[Dotsuk] Are you in Moscow for long?

[Shalakhmetov] The principle of leadership of the television and radio company is the principle of rotating the chairman after a while. An interstate coordination council will soon be created which will decide these questions.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 6 Feb

LD0602070393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0607 GMT 6 Feb 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 6 TASS—Today's newspapers highlight the first, organising, session of a roundtable meeting held in Moscow on Friday [5 February] by political parties, movements and public organisations of Russia.

The roundtable meeting is a mechanism for coordinating social interests which actualises when other mechanisms of power, constitutional ones, in particular, become exhausted, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER) recalls in this connection.

Commenting on the event, the newspaper writes in particular: "The absence of President Boris Yeltsin from the round table looked symtomatic. Yeltsin apparently regards the round table as Khasbulatov's yet another venture and is unwilling to go to any compromises with his political opponents. This can be viewed as an indication that the president is inclining towards a tough option for the development of events."

"The Chechen Republic's position is to remain with Russia in a common economic and ruble space in order to integrate our mutual interests in accordance with the aspirations of the peoples of the two countries," Yaragiy Mamodayev, first deputy premier of the Chechen Republic, told a press conference in PRAVDA's editorial office.

"To us, the sovereignty of the Chechen Republic is not an end in itself. Our independence should not exasperate anyone because it is not directed against any country, still less against Russia, with which we are brought together by common historical destiny," Mamodayev said.

To develop the space rocket sector is of vital interst to Russia, Yuriy Koptev, general director of the Russian Space Agency (RSA), pointed out in an interview published in today's TRUD.

This year the development of Russia's space rocket sector will require 48,000-50,000 million rubles at the 1993 prices from the state budget, Koptev said. He also pointed out that the RSA devotes much attention to international commercial cooperation in the space research sphere.

However, Koptev remarked that one cannot speak about equal opportunities on the world space market until the CoCom lifts its notorious restrictions imposed in the cold-war spirit. Koptev reaffirmed that converted military missiles SS-25, SS-18 and SS-24 would be used for commercial launchings.

"Every gust of wind from the West brings tens of thousands of tonnes of pollutants to Russia from the territories of its more lucky neighbours," maintains NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

An article to this effect, written on the strength of a survey within the framework of the convention of transborder air pollution over large distances, with centres in Moscow and Oslo, analyses the transport of poisonous emissions over the planet.

According to the survey, Germany, Russia, Britain, Poland, and Ukraine are the major polluters of air in Europe. These states, which have ramified metallurgical and mining industries, account for the bulk of the emissions of sulphur and nitrogen. However, by virtue of atmospheric conditions, most vulnerable ecologically is a country situated to the east of polluters—i.e., Russia—since the largest amount of precipitations containing ecologically harmful substances fall onto its territory.

A half of work in the A.I. Mikoyan MiG aircraft-making scientific and production complex is now done in the interests of the economy, academician Rostislav Belyakov, said in an interview published in today's KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR).

At the same time, speaking about defence industry conversion now under way, Belyakov expressed an opinion that many troubles "are caused by the fact that there is a lack of integrated, well thought out state regulation of the processes on a countrywide scale."

Academician Belyakov said the bureau, notwithstanding difficulties, continues to work on new models of fighter planes. In response to the newspaper's correspondent's question as to whether it would be more reasonable henceforth to sell the "surplus" to other countries and use the proceeds for the implementation of conversion programmes, Belyakov pointed out that "a powerful resistance to the sale of our aircraft is felt on the part of Western countries. The effort is being also hampered by our own lack of dispatch in dealing with matters concerning such trade."

Kozyrev Views Yugoslavia, Iraq, Christopher Meeting

LD0702220593 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by Yevgeniy Kiselev; place and date not given; from the "Itogi" program—recorded]

[Text] [Kiselev] Andrey Vladimirovich, allusions have recently been appearing in some of the mass media that Russia's foreign policy is changing, that new accents are emerging, in particular in the area of Yugoslavia, in the area of Serbia. This is being linked with the address that was made last week at closed hearings in the Supreme Soviet. Is this really so?

[Kozyrev] Yes and no. This is perhaps rather a discovery by the mass media, by certain observers, of what we have been saying for a long time but which was little noticed for some reason: that our policy is balanced, and that we have no intention of realizing our national interests through some kind of unquestioning friendship, or on the contrary, unquestioning confrontation. At present we have managed to prepare and put into effect a truly historic breakthrough, if you like, with China, and the president's recent visit to India. These are truly new elements in our policy, but they fall within the strategy that the president defined as far back as when Russia was part of the Soviet Union; that is, creating a belt of good-neighborliness, and attaining normal democratic relations. By the way, the Supreme Soviet also spoke in favor of this. It was precisely like this when I delivered my program two and a half years ago and when it was confirmed by the Supreme Soviet, so you could say we are still pursuing the same policy.

[Kiselev] Now that you have mentioned this subject yourself, how would you assess the present level of your relations, the nature of your relations, with the Supreme Soviet?

[Kozyrev] They are difficult. I think there is an element of political struggle, and attempts to categorize me, say, in one or another political spectrum. It seems to me that this is a hindrance.

But when the Supreme Soviet takes an interest in the actual work, the actual nature, of what we are doing—and this was a feature of the latest hearings of the international affairs committee—then it seems to me that relations then become constructive and businesslike to the highest degree.

[Kiselev] The policies of Russia, or in any case the policies of the Foreign Ministry, toward Yugoslavia are subjected to particularly harsh criticism by the parliamentary opposition.

[Kozyrev] I think it is approximately the same case there. If they want us to take an unquestioning stance of support for nationalist patriotic forces in Belgrade, because our nationalist patriotic forces see an ally in them, I think the nationalist patriotic opposition, which is not at all interested in the issue but in their own political line, it seems to me, cannot be convinced, and it seems to me that its approach is now like this: The worse things are, the better. Why? Because any foreign policy failure, no matter what consequences it will cost the country, will be a failure for Yeltsin and his team, and consequently this is good for them. They are winning a political victory this way. These people cannot, of course, be brought to their senses.

But on the other hand, if we return to the national interests of the Yugoslav people and Russia, they now lie in supporting the Vance-Owen plan. We have advocated this very vigorously. We were the first to advocate it. We advocated it independently. We have now been joined by the European Community. We are now starting to be joined by other members of the Security Council. Unfortunately, there is a certain restraint regarding support for this plan, still, from the American administration, but we hope we will succeed in mobilizing support in the Security Council and involve our American partners, because this is the only sensible alternative to continuing bloodshed.

[Kiselev] Are there any serious changes in Russian policy toward Iraq that might be out of line with the policy being pursued by the leading Western powers?

[Kozyrev] Well, not out of line in principle. In principle we have the same approach. But it is another matter, I would like to say again, that in making one decision or another we insist on our point of view being taken into account, so that the process of coordination should be as detailed as possible, and so on and so on. That is, I would like to say that in principle the coalition cannot be split, and it is important that no one in Baghdad should have any illusions on this account. It's another matter that, yes, of course....

[Kiselev, interrupting] Sorry, the coalition of which you regard Russia as a part?

[Kozyrev] Yes, certainly.

[Kiselev] Andrey Vladimirovich, what do you expect from the meeting with new U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher planned for 25 February in Geneva?

[Kozyrev] A serious conversation on the agenda for international partnership—we are currently restricted to telephone conversations—in terms of preparing for the subsequent summit meeting.

[Kiselev] Thank you very much for the interview.

Churkin Discusses Yugoslav Crisis

LD0702195193 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1355 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Studio interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin by Dmitriy Yakushkin; date not given; from the "Panorama" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Yakushkin] We return to the Yugoslav crisis. In our studio is Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin.

Vitaliy Ivanovich, let us start with a specific question. You have just come back from Saudi Arabia. Clearly this was connected with the latest position of the Muslim world in relation to the crisis.

[Churkin] With that, too. I met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal al Sa'ud and with Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization. Now is an extremely important time in efforts for a settlement. On the agenda are the adoption or rejection of the plan of Vance and Owen, the cochairmen of the coordinating council on Yugoslavia. Much will depend on Bosnian Muslim leader Izetbegovic, and one would like to be clear how the Islamic states of the Islamic Conference Organization may react to the situation.

[Yakushkin] What is their position ?

[Churkin] Well, it seemed to me that their policy is to support Izetbegovic. This is extremely important. This means that if the leader of the Bosnian Muslims agrees with the Vance-Owen plan, there will not be any opposition to its implementation on the part of the Muslim world. But, on the other hand, there is a danger here. If Izetbegovic suddenly rejects the cochairmen's plan, this will give a certain boost to the development of extremism in the Muslim world, a demand to lift the embargo on arms supplies to Bosnia, the implementation of military actions, and so on.

[Yakushkin] Let us talk a bit about Vance and Owen. Do you have faith in the success of this team? If so, what are the advantages of it?

[Churkin] I have faith in the success of this team. The advantage of it is that they are two extremely distinguished and qualified political figures and diplomats. Behind them are the United Nations, the European Community, and the coordinating council, in which Russia plays an active role. They have done a great deal of important work to bring all sides involved in the conflict to the very brink of accepting a package decision on Bosnia. So I think there is every chance, especially as, according to our information, the Serbian side—the Bosnian Serbs—really do intend to adopt the whole plan in its entirety—at least that is Belgrade's position. And Belgrade, as far as we are aware, has an active influence on the Bosnian Serb leaders in favor of accepting the Vance-Owen plan.

[Yakushkin] I know that when the Croatians recently launched an offensive on Serbian Krajina, you went to Zagreb to express Russia's negative attitude to Croatia's actions. Did Russia find itself in a minority and in isolation on this issue? Did other countries support its negative reaction to the Croatian attack?

[Churkin] Not only did Russia not find itself in isolation, but Russia's position was supported by a majority of members of the European Community. After several contacts with us, the European Community practically came forward with the same positions, and its foreign ministers made a statement to this effect. Perhaps the most important thing was when the Security Council passed quickly and without much discussion Resolution 802, which condemned Croatia's actions and demanded withdrawal of Croatian troops from the territories they had seized during their offensive.

[Yakushkin] Is there a difference between Russia's position and the position of the West on Yugoslavia at present?

[Churkin] The West, it must be said, is also not unanimous, and its position is not unanimous. It seems to me there is a high degree of agreement of positions between Russia and the European Community at present. At least we are united in the main thing: in the necessity of energetically supporting the Vance-Owen plan. Well, at present the position of the U.S. Administration is not very clear for a very simple reason: The administration has come to the White House and State Department very recently, and it has not yet fully defined its position. But, judging by the information we receive, I, for example, am fully confident that we will be able to cooperate effectively and usefully on the Yugoslav settlement with the United States as well.

[Yakushkin] A lot is being said at the moment about changes in Russian foreign policy, if not in essence than in form. Does our position on Yugoslavia demonstrate this? Is there any evolution there?

[Churkin] Well, on the whole the world is holding its breath and waiting to see whether Russia will slip into a confrontational position. I would like to assure you with all confidence that it will not happen. In particular, it will not happen with regard to Yugoslavia. In general, the power of our diplomacy is in the fact that it has managed to defend its approaches and ideas without slipping into confrontation but by constantly interacting with others—including Western countries. But you were right when you said there is a difference not only in essence but in form. In essence we continue to retain the same positions, but in form, at least in the Yugoslav case, I would like to say that yes, we understand Russia's position in the world more realistically at present and we understand Russia's opportunities more realistically. We have been convinced once again that the opportunities of Russian diplomacy are not small, and therefore we act

with more confidence—if you prefer, with more insistency—than in the first months of Russia existing outside the USSR framework, due to very objective reasons, it seems, when simply a whole number of parameters of our international existence were still unclear.

[Yakushkin] That is, you want to say we feel more comfortable in the world now?

[Churkin] Exactly.

[Yakushkin] Thank you.

Moscow Seeks To Avert Problems in Croatia's Protected Areas

LD0602095993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0915 GMT 6 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] United Nations February 6 TASS—Yuliy Vorontsov, permanent representative of the Russian Federation at the United Nations, on Friday began consultations with UN Security Council members on a matter concerning the adoption of a new resolution which would contain a warning about the possibility of applying sanctions in the event of further noncompliance with Security Council Resolution 802 (1993).

Resolution 802 (1993) envisages cessation of hostilities in UN-protected areas in Croatia, a withdrawal of Croatian Armed Forces from areas occupied by them and return by Serbian forces of heavy weapons taken from UN-protected depots. The resolution also urges all the sides fully to implement the plan, endorsed by the UN at the beginning of 1992, for the establishment of peace in Croatia.

The Russian side considers it important to avert any further complication of the situation in UN protected areas in Croatia so as to prevent an unfavourable effect of such complications on the talks, which are being held in New York, on a peaceful settlement of the situation in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Holds 5 Feb Briefing

Reiterates Support for Vance-Owen Plan

LD0502203093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1630 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, held a briefing today. Speaking about the problem of the Yugoslav settlement, he said the following:

[Begin Yastrzhembskiy recording] Now when the center of gravity of the Yugoslav settlement has been transferred to New York, the Vance-Owen plan and the efforts of the cochairmen, who are trying to secure the full agreement of all sides in Bosnia to the Geneva package, need, from our point of view, additional support. The majority of the countries, together with the cochairmen, agree it is necessary that the Security Council take direct responsibility for the negotiations and influence all the sides—first of all the Bosnian Serbs and Moslems—to adopt the agreements once and for all. The Brussels declaration of the EC Council on Bosnia-Hercegovina is similar to the Russian approach, above all because it clearly shows support for the Vance-Owen plan. Even if this plan may have some defects, at the present time this plan is the only real basis for a peaceful settlement in Bosnia, especially as the parties have already achieved a lot in the coordination of this plan. Taking into consideration this fact, we are continuing active diplomatic work both with the Bosnian sides and Bosnia's neighbors. We are trying to persuade them of the need to show the maximum responsibility and common sense.

As you know, Russian Federation Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin has returned to Moscow from his visit to Cyprus and Saudi Arabia. A significant part of his visit was also devoted to an exchange of opinions with partners on this dialogue—on the Yugoslav problem. Simultaneously with the increase of political activities, we have taken concrete steps of a humanitarian character. Under an accord with the UN high commissioner for refugees, the Russian Federation's State Committee for Emergencies is expected to send a transport team on 6 February to help with the delivery of international humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Hercegovina. [end recording]

Welcomes Israeli Move on Palestinians

LD0502153493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1432 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Feb—"We consider the proposals announced by Israel on the question of the deported Palestinians to be a move in the right direction," Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Department of Information and the Press of the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing today.

We believe, he went on, that these proposals "May become the starting point for overcoming the crisis and the complete fulfillment of UN Security Council Resolution No. 799, i.e., the return of all deported Palestinians and the resumption of bilateral and multilateral talks."

Russia, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy stressed, intends to continue its close interaction with all the interested parties, including the American cochairman, on the full range of Near East issues.

Notes Protest of Estonia's 'Territorial Claims'

OW0502193293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1759 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The director of the press and information department of the Russian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs], Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, revealed at a briefing in Moscow on Friday [5 February] that Russia's Ambassador in Tallinn Aleksandr Trofimov has made a representation to the Estonian Foreign Ministry.

In the words of Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, the new text books in Estonian schools contain geographic maps where the republic's state border is shown as it was fixed in the Tartu Peace Treaty of 1920. The Russian MFA, he said, is regarding this as a manifestation of "Estonia's territorial claims to Russia."

The Russian MFA reminds in connection with this, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said, that it regards the Tartu Peace Treaty as void, since beginning 1940 the relations between Russia and Estonia have been regulated by the countries' internal legislation. The Russian MFA believes that such violations run counter to the provisions of the countries' state agreement of 1991 and other agreements in that regard in the framework of the CSCE.

Any attempts to instill in the minds of Estonia's younger generation the idea of territorial revenge is ultimately erroneous and fraught with serious consequences, the spokesman for the Russian MFA emphasized.

Grachev Views Military Cooperation With Tajikistan

OW0502150393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1432 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A draft of a Russo-Tajik treaty on military cooperation and the principles of the staffing, supply, and support of Russian forces deployed in Tajikistan is now being worked out, according to statements made by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev at a Friday morning meeting with staff from the 201st Division in Dushanbe.

The meeting was also attended by Tajik Supreme Council Chairman Imamali Rakhmanov, government head Abdumalik Abdullodzhonov, and Defense Minister Aleksandr Shishlyannikov.

Grachev noted that the Russian 201st Division would be brought up to strength by recruits from Tajikistan, as well as by those from Russia who wish to serve out their contracts on a voluntary basis. All remaining Russian servicemen, he said, would be reassigned in Russia.

Grachev further stated that during his conversations with the Tajik leadership, agreements had been reached on all these questions.

The defense minister specifically emphasized the agreement on the establishment of a single air defense system in Central Asia, "since such a defense system cannot be maintained separately by each state." Speaking about the measures which Russia intends to take in rendering aid to Tajikistan under the treaty on collective security, Grachev again pointed out the necessity of sending CIS peacekeeping forces to Tajikistan in accordance with earlier agreements. He promised to cooperate with Tajikistan in resolving the issue from the Russian side.

The minister emphasized that the purpose behind strengthening the guard on the Tajik border was to prevent the spread of, as he put it, "aggressive Islamic fundamentalism, which may lead to war, perhaps even on Russian territory." During the day on Friday, the Russian defense minister and the Tajik leadership visited units of the 201st division deployed in Kulyab. Grachev intends to return to Moscow this evening.

Views Forming Tajik Army

OW0602131793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1238 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian 201st division will remain in Tajikistan in keeping with the Tashkent collective security treaty and at the insistent request of the Tajik leadership, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told INTERFAX in Moscow on Friday evening, on his return from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Grachev discussed with the leaders of the two Central Asian republics the status of, and the recruitment and logistics for, Russian forces stationed in them.

He said the 201st division will shortly be reinforced with volunteers.

Russia, the minister said, is prepared to help Tajikistan form its own armed forces, which are to take shape in three stages by the year 2000, and will consist of an army corps incorporating several brigades, an air force, and air defense and special purpose units.

Officers for them will be trained by specialists from Russia and in Russian military colleges, Grachev said.

Russia will also provide Tajikistan with armaments, he said, some of which will be given as compensation for the republic's contributions to the military budget of the former Soviet Union, and the rest sold to Tajikistan at world prices.

Commenting on possible developments in Tajikistan in the near future, the minister said armed groups of Islamists in the republic's northeastern regions are being actively trained in camps by instructors, including

Afghan ones. By the middle of March, these forces are likely to launch a large-scale offensive towards Dushanbe, he said.

Tajikistan, Grachev said, is in a position to expect assistance from six CIS states which have signed the collective security treaty. The Russian forces stationed in the republic will not, however, be activated before Russia's political leadership takes a decision to that effect, he said.

Defense Ministry: No Plans To Restation Troops in Georgia

LD0502190393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1834 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS—The Russian Defence Ministry has not planned any restationing of Russian troops in the Trans-Caucasia, the Press Service of the Russian Defence Ministry said on Friday [5 February], quoting a statement by the general staff of the Russian armed forces.

The statement followed mass media reports about "plans to transfer the command of the group of Russian troops in the Trans-Caucasia from Tbilisi."

According to reports from Georgia, the number of attacks on Russian troops in the republic, including their command headquarters, continues to grow. One guard, Private Andrey Mishenin, was wounded as a result of an attack on the command headquarters on Thursday when ten unidentified people opened gun fire.

On the same day, a group of armed Georgians supported by an armoured personnel carrier tried to seize a truck battalion, reports said.

Foreign Ministry Hails Belarus' Nonnuclear Stance

LD0802104693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0915 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Feb—A spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry has described the Belarus Supreme Soviet's recent decision to ratify the START I treaty and the Lisbon Protocol of 23 May 1992, which is part of the treaty, as a major contribution to nuclear disarmament. In light of a commitment made under the Lisbon Protocol, the Belarus Parliament also decided that the Republic of Belarus would accede to the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear state.

These important steps on the part of Belarus, the Russian diplomat said in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, "help to strengthen the system of nuclear non-proliferation, international security and, it goes without saying, the security of CIS states." According to the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, Belarus' ratification of the START I Treaty gives grounds for hoping that the treaty will soon join those international agreements that are already in force. As we know, the treaty has already been ratified by Russia, Kazakhstan, and the United States. However, a similar decision has not yet been made by Ukraine, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed.

Moscow Agrees With Ukraine on Gas Prices

OW0502223693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1726 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine will be purchasing from Russian natural gas under inter-government contracts at a price of 15,600 rubles for 1 thousand cubic meters, which is 60 percent below the world prices. The agreement was concluded in Moscow on Friday at negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian experts. The Ukrainian delegation was led by Vice-Premier Yuliy Ioffe, and Russia was represented by the chairman of the State Committee for Pricing Policies, Lira Rozenova.

Russia is prepared to sell Ukraine 60.3 billion cubic meters of gas and about 20 million tons of oil this year.

The experts were unable to coordinate the prices of Russian oil supplied to Ukraine under an inter-government agreement. The sides said that the decision on prices must be made at a higher, "political" level. Russia is ready to sell oil to Ukraine at prices below the world ones on the condition Ukraine will be selling Russia farm produce at prices below the world ones.

The negotiators set tariffs on the transit of Russian fuels through Ukraine. The cost of transporting of 1 thousand cubic meters of gas was set at 180 rubles per 100 kilometers. (This is equivalent to the tariffs set by Turkmenistan, the second biggest producer of gas in the CIS, and its neighbors.)

As for the transportation of oil, the sides agreed that Ukraine will charge 75 U.S. cents for the transit of one ton through its territory. The sum will be deducted from the share of the pipeline organization Transneft, which earlier charged 6.59 dollars for pumping one ton of oil from West Siberia to the borders of the former USSR.

Moscow Wants Change to '61 China Treaty Backing DPRK

OW0502161393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia has presented China with a new interpretation of the first paragraph of the friendship and co-operation treaty of 1961, according to which military support would be given to North Korea in the event of an unprovoked direct attack on the nation. The above was announced at a Moscow briefing Friday [5 February] by Georgiy Kunadze, Russia's deputy foreign minister, who had recently returned from a visit to Pyongyang. Kunadze held consultations in the North Korean capital with representatives of the North Korean leadership in the capacity of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special representative.

Kunadze also admitted that Moscow expected the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty to be observed unconditionally by the North Koreans and more dialogue with Seoul. In his opinion, the unification of North and South Korea was in the interests of Russian national security since it would mean the removal of tension from the Russian border region.

The deputy minister said that the consultations had demonstrated that the views of the two nations did not fully coincide. He did say, however, that this could be expected. He was in favour of developing relations between Moscow and Pyongyang so that these became more stable and less dependent on the political state of affairs. Russia, he pointed out, would be guided by different principles from those of the USSR, working on the premise of priority for its national interests and the principles of international, civilised relations.

Regarding economic and trade co-operation between Russia and North Korea, Kunadze pointed out that the failure by Pyongyang to settle accounts for that part of the debt which should have been compensated for by goods supplies in 1992 had presented a serious problem. The sum in question here was 1.3 bn. [billion] dollars, and the total debt outstanding was 3.3 bn. dollars.

Kunadze Briefing Addresses DPRK Trip Results

LD0502215193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2028 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze spoke at a briefing here on Friday on the results of the Russian-North Korean consultations. He headed a Russian delegation which visited Pyongyang late in January, 1993.

He said the atmosphere of "mutual frankness" in which the consultations between Russian Foreign Ministry representatives and their colleagues from the DPRK were held, presupposes not complete coincidence of the sides' views.

During the negotiations both sides confirmed their intention to develop bilateral relations, to make them more stable, and less dependent on a political situation. The need in such changes in our relations is obvious, since the changes which took place in Russia more than a year ago resulted in the appearing of a new state with a different social system and different political principles, he said.

Discussing the issues of improvement of the treaty-legal base of the Russian-North Korean relations, the sides agreed to steadily work at perfecting a number of inter-state documents. It was confirmed that the 1961 treaty between the DPRK and the USSR remains basic for the sides at present.

Touching upon the necessity to bring it into the line with the present-day realities, a new interpretation rather than the changing of the text is borne in mind, stated the head of the delegation.

Kunadze said further that in the course of the consultations the Russian side put on the principled plane a question on trade and economic relations of the two countries. It is connected with the fact that in 1992 the DPRK failed to pay the appropriate share of its debt to Russia, despite the achieved agreement on commodity supply worth 1.3 billion dollars to the account of paying off a part of the aggregate debt to the amount of 3.3 billion of hard currency rouble.

Kunadze found the discussion of the bilateral relations quite constructive, while consideration of the international situation generated an unexpected aspect. Summarising the talks, First Deputy Foreign Minister of the DPRK Kang Seok-cho stated that "Russia's attempts to mix the two countries' relations with the problems which are not Russia's concern, do not meet the common principles of inter-state relations."

According to the Russian deputy foreign minister, it concerned the interest shown by Russia in some urgent international problems, including issues of strengthening the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In particular, the Russian side stressed the need to settle as soon as possible the relations between the DPRK and the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] with the aim to facilitate effective work of the international organisation. Kunadze said the Russian side believes the DPRK should allow the IAEA to inspect the territory.

The Russian side urged the North Koreans, like in its time the South Koreans, to stimulate the inter-Korean dialogue. Expressing our viewpoint on the problems of the Korean Peninsular, the Russian side stated the unification of Korea meets the national interests of Russia, since only such a decision to the problem will make it possible to reduce tension and secure stability in the region, Kunadze said.

On the whole, we are satisfied with the results of the consultations and hope for a positive reaction of the DPRK leadership to the questions put by us, the deputy foreign minister concluded.

Japan's Miyazawa Views Russian Ties, Yeltsin Visit

LD0702122993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1129 GMT 7 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Varlamov]

[Text] Tokyo February 7 TASS—Relations between Japan and Russia are in need of a radical improvement. With this end in view, it is necessary to settle the Northern Territories issue and then conclude a peace treaty and achieve full normalisation, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said on Sunday [7 February] when addressing a national meeting which was organised in Tokyo by the government on the occasion of the "Northern Territories Day" which is officially marked on February 7.

Addressing 2,000 participants, including leaders of the state, representatives of political, public and business organisations, the head of government said Russian President Boris Yeltsin's postponed visit should be made.

Unlike his remarks at last year's similar meeting, this time the Japanese premier, as local journalists put it, sang a different tune and did not demand a "courageous political decision" from the Russian leader.

Those present at the meeting adopted an appeal, urging Russia to promote a solution to the pressing problem during peace talks.

Annual functions under the aegis of the "Northern Territories Day" have been held in Japan for the 13th time in view of a regular anniversary of the day when the first treaty with Russia was concluded in 1855.

The intensity of meetings and clamorous processions organised by local nationalists decreases from year to year and the activities become increasingly traditional. On Sunday, the state television channel did not run the previously invariable footage "for the return of the islands", and only one out of six national newspapers carried a government-paid ad. with the outlines of the disputed territories.

ROK Official Views Relations With Russia

PM0502140793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Feb 93 p 3

[Report by N. Tsvetkov: "There are Miracles There, 'Kiev' Camera Is in Fashion There"]

[Excerpt] Seoul-Tokyo—The Soviet Union was late to notice South Korea. It is less than five years since any mention in our press of the state on the Korean peninsula south of the 88th parallel ceased to be accompanied by venomous or overtly insulting epithets and diplomats ceased to insult the South Koreans with public demonstrations of scorn and of their own ignorance: "I know of no such country."

But then it all took off. We embarked on rapprochement so rapidly that to an outsider it looked like a battering ram. For independent Russia relations with the ROK were obviously promoted to the ranks of the key foreign policy priorities in the Asian and Pacific region. It was Seoul which was the destination for President Yeltsin's first official visit beyond Russia's Asian borders.

It is no time at all since the friendly tennis match between presidents Yeltsin and No Tae-u but already they are preparing for a new incumbent in the presidential "Blue House." The new head of state will be Kim Yong-sam, a representative of the Democratic Liberal Party, who will have to open the era of "nonmilitary rule" in the ROK (before him over the past few decades the South Korean leaders have invariably come from the army top brass).

Do some drastic changes await South Korea in this connection? Should we expect a reorientation of foreign policy and in particular on the Russian salient? For answers to these questions our correspondent went to Seoul where the man who is called one of the new president's closets companions and also the main candidate for the post of foreign minister in the new government kindly agreed to speak with him. He is Mr Chon Che Mun [name as transliterated], who heads the ROK National Assembly committee for international affairs and national unification.

"We would like to take a fitting place in world politics," says Mr Chon. "Of course, we are interested in friendly relations with your great country. As we are with the peoples of China and Japan and our U.S. friends. What is happening in Russia gives us great hope and great concern. We believe that your country's role is still very great. Particularly in maintaining peace, including on the Korean peninsula.

[Tsvetkov] What are the prospects of reunification? Is it possible, for instance, in the period of Kim Yong-sam's presidency?

[Chon] Every Korean dreams of reunification but time is needed for that. This process will take longer than the unification of Germany. For many years the two Germanies had maintained relatively normal relations. In our case there is the North's absolute self-isolation. For the idea of reunification to be realized we need, in my opinion, about 20-30 years of peaceful coexistence and broad dialogue. In my opinion your country could render us assistance. And not only to us but also to our North Korean brothers.

[Tsvetkov] What kind of assistance?

[Chon] Political and military—so that there is peace here. As you know, they intend to create their own nuclear weapons. I am not against the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. But military developments and attempts to create the atom bomb cannot fail to give rise to very strong disquiet. As far as I know they already have five or six nuclear reactors. Of these one or two

were supplied by your country. Their specialists were trained in our country. I would like to see the Korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons.

[Tsvetkov] But what about the possible presence of U.S. nuclear warheads in South Korea?

[Chon] That can be verified, with the aid of the International Atomic Energy Agency inspectorate, for instance. Inspectors could study any establishments in South Korea. In addition it is possible to organize reciprocal verification by the forces of the South Korean and North Korean sides.

[Tsvetkov] Do you feel a threat from the Russian side similar to the "Soviet threat?" In general what are your feelings with regard to Russia?

[Chon] We have kept our armed forces in order to have the opportunity to defend ourselves. It is unimportant where the potential threat comes from—Russia or Japan (here my interlocutor laughed—N.Ts.).

We would not like to feel a threat from any neighboring country, yours included. We view Russia as an inalienable part of the Asian and Pacific region. You have gigantic resources and territory and highly developed technology. What you do not have is the ability to trade. You have no good salesmen. Korea is a small country, but we have good salesmen. In brief, our countries have broad opportunities for cooperation.

[Tsvetkov] Do you believe that the economic, political, and ideological reforms in Russia could be successful?

[Chon] First of all I want to stress that the Russian people are a great people. You have a great culture and you have always paid attention to literature, music, and science. Until recently, it is true, you overlooked civil liberties. Now you are trying to engage in the former and the latter—I think that in the near future great success awaits you. You are advancing toward the creation of a democratic government, a democratic parliament. That is a good start. You are also talking seriously about the free market. I think that all countries of the world will come to the market system sooner or later.

We do not feel any threat from your country. Frankly, we may have problems rather with China or Japan. We recall that Japan is continuing to develop rapidly economically and in addition is becoming a might military power.

[Tsvetkov] Does it seem to you that this contains any threat to the region?

[Chon] It is not a threat. But what they are doing is dishonest. The Japanese should open their market so that everyone has equal chances. Japan is an economic giant which is continuing to build up its might. The surrounding world is becoming a Japanese monopoly market. There is nothing good in that. Already it can be said that Japan is too rich. And other peoples are going hungry.

How to assess, for instance, Japanese servicemen's participation in UN peackeeping operations outside Japan? I would not like to see Japanese soldiers in Asian countries. In other regions, just possibly. But in the countries which were once subject to Japanese occupation—no. Here there is if you like a psychological barrier. And it would be best of all if Japan took part in UN activity by helping it financially. Japan could help poor countries more indirectly—with money, food, necessities, and specialists—but not by sending soldiers there. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin, Canada's McDougall Discuss Yugoslav Crisis

LD0502164193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1515 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, 5 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—A meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Canadian Foreign Minister Barbara McDougall was held in the Kremlin today. During the conversation, issues of bilateral relations were discussed in light of the forthcoming official visit by the Canadian prime minister to Moscow at the invitation of the Russian president. Mutual interest was expressed in signing a number of important documents during this visit which are intended to determine the further development of Russian-Canadian relations in various spheres.

An exchange of opinions regarding the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis took place. B. Yeltsin expounded Russia's position on this matter. A proximity of Russian and Canadian positions with regard to the Vance-Owen plan and the adherence by the parties to political methods of regulating the situation were noted.

The forthcoming G-7 meeting in Tokyo and Russia's possible participation in this meeting were also discussed. ITAR-TASS was told this by the press service of the president of the Russian Federation.

Canada To Support Yeltsin's Reforms

LD0502225993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1428 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Canada firmly supports the reforms begun by President Boris Yeltsin because they are defining Russia's future, Canadian Foreign Minister Barbara McDougall said today after meeting the Russian president.

We view your country, she said in an interview with ITAR-TASS, as one of the world's foremost states, because what happens in Russia is of great significance to Canada and all other countries.

The minister said the forthcoming visit to Moscow by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, scheduled for March, was discussed during the meeting. Also discussed were bilateral agreements to be signed during the visit.

We also, she continued, briefly talked about the situation in the former Yugoslavia, and agreed that the United Nations should look at certain issues.

"For us, the main purpose of our conversation today," the minister stressed, "was to assure President Yeltsin that Canada will continue to support the democratic and economic reforms in Russia."

McDougall Ends 3-Day Visit

LD0502193993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1833 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 5 ITAR-TASS—Foreign Minister of Canada Barbara Jean McDougall ended a three-day working visit to Russia and flew to Munich on Friday [5 February].

During her stay in the Russian capital she held talks with Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The sides discussed issues of bilateral relations and international problems of mutual interest. The two foreign ministers also considered the preparation for the forthcoming visit to Moscow of Canada's Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

During the visit the Canadian foreign minister met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Russian Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and Vice-Premier of the Russian Government Boris Fedorov.

Sweden's Bildt Urges Rapid Troop Withdrawal From Baltics

OW0502182593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1724 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Sweden will never be indifferent to the situation when the survival of three Baltic states is endangered," Swedish Prime Minister Karl Bildt said during his speech in Russia's House of the Soviets on Friday, February 5, when he was addressing members of the RF [Russian Federation] parliamentary committee for international affairs and foreign trade.

The primary prerequisite for promoting independence of the Baltic states, he said, is in rapid and complete withdrawal of all the Russian troops from that region.

Commenting of the issues related to Russian-speaking population in those republics, the Swedish prime minister said that the "plight of emigrants is part of the bitter heritage which expansionist empires usually leave behind after they are gone."

Prime Minister Bildt said it would take "benevolent attitude on the part of the Baltic peoples and the ability to unconditionally reconcile with new reality on the part of the Russians" to resolve this issue.

Mr. Bildt indicated that Sweden would "contribute to promoting constructive relations between the Baltic states and Russia."

Expresses Support for Russian Reforms

LD0502143993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1431 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS—"Sweden is not interested in having a weak and unstable Russia by its side. Such a neighbour will never be reliable," Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt told Russian MPs at the White House here today.

Expressing full support to the democratic reforms in Russia, Bildt noted that Europe was faced with two important tasks in the new political conditions: To achieve cooperation and lasting peace among all the countries of the continent and to close the economic and social gaps, inherited from the former Communist domination in eastern Europe.

According to Bildt, Sweden still adheres to the policy of non- alignment in order to remain neutral in case of a conflict in "our closest neighbourhood". However, this does not prevent us from rendering assistance to the Baltic states.

Describing the Baltic republics as a "very promising element in the future development of northern Europe and the Baltic region", Bildt stressed that their newly acquired independence was of particular importance for Sweden. "We want to contribute to the further strengthening of their independence. A precondition for this is the quick and complete withdrawal of remaining Russian troops from this region," he said.

Concludes Visit

LD0702154893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1448 GMT 7 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Troyanovskiy]

[Text] Novgorod, 7 Feb—Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt has said that his official visit to Russia was "highly successful." Today he visited the ancient Russian town of Novgorod, the final stop on his trip around the country.

Commenting at the request of the ITAR-TASS correspondent on the results of his visit to Russia, Bildt noted that the talks he held in Moscow with President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev "indicated fresh opportunities for cooperation and contacts that are arising as a result of the democratic transformations in Russia." This also applies to his meetings with St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak and his trip to Novgorod, the Swedish prime minister stated.

The Swedish guest met with leaders of the town and oblast. A number of contracts were signed, in particular an accord for the installation of Swedish equipment for juice production at the local dairy. Members of the delegation visited the Novgorod kremlin and familiarized themselves with its sights and the work of the restorers who have been working on the unique structures and artistic works produced by ancestors.

Let us note the fact that for over five years now Novgorod Oblast has been closely cooperating with one of the Swedish provinces, Vaermlands, and is with every passing year broadening its contacts in various spheres. Mikhail Prusak, the head of the oblast's administration held a dinner in honor of the distinguished guest.

Later in the day the Swedish prime minister left for home.

Foreign Ministry Official in Baghdad for Talks

OW0802103493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1004 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Igor Melekhov, the deputy head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern department, has flown to Baghdad for consultations with the Iraqi leadership, INTERFAX was informed by Vladimir Nosenko, a high-ranking official of the department.

Nosenko said that Moscow's position on Iraq remained unchanged. "We insist that Iraq observes all UN Security Council resolutions which concern it," he said.

Nosenko said that Melekhov's mission had been designed to clarify whether or not any kind of change had taken place in the line on Iraq in connection with the change of administration in the USA. "This is the main purpose of the visit," he said, and added that it was still not certain whether Saddam Husayn would receive the Russian diplomat.

The Foreign Ministry official said that the repayment of Iraq's debt to the former USSR may be discussed in Baghdad, where Melekhov would arrive Monday and spend two or three days. "This is an on-going issue," he said. "Debts are debts, and these must be returned." International sanctions against Iraq are, as announced, preventing the latter from using oil supplies to repay the debt to the former USSR. Russia previously re-exported this oil to India.

Chile Denies Reports of Chemical Weapon Possession

LD0802041693 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0300 GMT 8 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian intelligence service may find itself at the center of a sudden diplomatic conflict between Russia and Chile. The Chilean Embassy in Moscow has asked for additional information in connection with a statement made by Russian officials. The statement in question was made at a recent news conference by the leadership of the Russian external intelligence service. A report presented during the news conference mentioned Chile among the countries possessing chemical weapons. The Chilean authorities have issued a special statement in connection with this saying the country has never conducted any research aimed at producing chemical weapons. The Chilean authorities said that they found it inconceivable that a representative of the Russian Government, with whom Chile has very good relations, could have made such allegations, although in an indirect form.

Political Issues

Kostikov Criticizes Khasbulatov's 'Open Impudence'

LD0502203693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1930 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Feb—Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian Federation president's press secretary, today issued a statement, saying:

"Reports have been received through the channels of the ITAR-TASS and INTERFAX agencies about the latest odious utterance by Ruslan Khasbulatov.

"During his conversation with Carl Bildt, the Swedish prime minister, the parliamentary speaker again allowed himself to say tactless things against Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Acting in the role of high priest and judge, R. Khasbulatov accused the president of 'not having coped with his tasks' and said that therefore 'the government should be freed from the president's guardianship.'

"Displaying a lack of restraint in front of the foreign visitor and unconstrained by the fact that utterances of this kind are humiliating to Russia and damage not only the president but also Russian policy and the dignity of Russia, the Supreme Soviet speaker had the questionable temerity to state that the president did not know how to find a way out of the situation regarding the referendum and that he 'would again have to rescue the president.'

"The timing of this statement coincides with the holding of the 'round table,' of which Ruslan Khasbulatov was one of the initiators. Speaking at its opening, the speaker stood up for 'democracy' and 'consensus.' An underhand attack on the head of executive authority, Ruslan Khasulatov's arrogant statement to the effect that 'parliament is the only stabilizing force' reveals with full clarity the duplicity of this political figure.

"It is obvious that the speaker of the Supreme Soviet, who is losing more and more support from the Russian people, who is using only a narrow group of conservative deputies for cover, and who fears a major political defeat at the approaching referendum, is displaying a dangerous penchant for low political intrigues.

"The fact that R. Khasbulatov has descended to direct attacks on the dignity of the president shows that his repeated declarations about the need for civil concord and public consolidation and unity with the president are part of a false game.

"The only consolation in the face of such open impudence and hypocrisy is the fact that public utterances of this kind make it possible for the people of Russia, Russian politicians, the corps of deputies, and world politicians to assess the full extent of the danger that such actions on the part of this latter-day 'savior' present for society."

Poltoranin Comments

OW0602194193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Parliament's speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov has for a long period of time opposed the Russian president, only "previously he more or less camouflaged his words." This was the view expressed by Mikhail Poltoranin, the chairman of the Federal Information Center, in front of journalists Saturday [6 February]. Poltoranin was commenting on a statement made by Khasbulatov on the necessity to "release the government from the tutelage of a president who was unable to cope with his duties."

Poltoranin told an INTERFAX [IF] correspondent that the proposal to hold a referendum was made not by the president himself, but by the 7th Congress of People's Deputies. He was of the view that the plebiscite should decide the form of governmental administration (presidential or parliamentary—IF) and by whom and when the new Constituition would be adopted.

Regarding the statement made by Valeriy Zorkin, Chairman of the Russian Constitutional Court, on the lack of any need to hold the referendum, Poltoranin pointed out that "Zorkin himself is not an authority in his own right. He is a representative of the deputies' body since he was elected not by the nation, but by the Congress."

More on Yeltsin Criticism of 1992 Economic Performance

PM0802110793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Feb 93 pp 1,2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "Month of Critical Accountability Begins in Russian Government"]

[Text] The 4 February session of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers presidium, held in the Kremlin, was chaired by President B. Yeltsin. It is the first time has has chaired a session of the new government.

The first report was delivered by Economy Minister A. Nechayev. In particular, he stressed that the Economy Ministry's main task in 1993 will be to provide financial stability, put a brake on the production slump, restructure the economy, change the economy's social orientation and demilitarize it, and make foreign economic relations more effective. According to the minister, restructuring will entail the socially acceptable winding up of inefficient production operations, steadying the national economy, lessening the dependence on imports, and providing incentives for and developing production for export. These tasks and the measures to implement them will be presented in a federal restructuring program for 1993-1995 and up to 2000.

For the purpose of restructuring, the Economy Ministry has elaborated a series of measures to stimulate investment policy, in particular by concentrating state budget

funding on priority projects, reducing the proportion of direct funding of capital construction from the budget and attracting nonbudget resources—from the population, from pension, medical, and other funds. To that end a multilevel system of investment project evaluation will be implemented. Projects will be monitored by the Central Bank, the Finance Ministry, and other departments. A presidential edict has also been prepared on financial corporation.

The defense industry conversion program will continue, with the priority areas of economic development in mind and on the basis of the implementation of the 13 targeted conversion programs that were devised earlier. The defense order is to be shaped with a view to maintaining the country's defense capability and preserving the potential of the military industrial complex. This will take into account the problem of reducing Russia's dependence on supplies of components and other parts from the former union republics. Enterprises' financial recovery and the solution of the problem of defaults on payments are of key importance for the stabilization of the national economy, according to A. Nechayev. To resolve this problem, the Economy Ministry, in conjunction with the Central Bank and other departments, will give temporary, selective credit support to insolvent enterprises on stiff financial and other terms. In order to reduce the budget deficit the ministry will present proposals on the rational reduction of subsidies for loss-making enterprises and import subsidies and proposals on the stage-by-stage raising of prices of energy sources.

After the minister had reported, the president had some very hard things to say about the Economy Ministry's activities. In particular, he stressed that there were more mistakes than necessary last year in the Economy Ministry's work. "Only toward the end of 1992 did you set about revitalizing investment policy, so the restructuring is mainly talk. The ministry has not yet answered the question: Why did prices rise sharply in December, and particularly in January? Probably because credits were granted without any controls and I think not only the ministry's leaders should be called to account for these actions. You have not conducted a single model trial in the case of a bankrupt enterprise in order to demonstrate the machinery of bankruptcy and analyze what can cause the destruction of enterprises. I would like to ask who is keeping track of expenditure of credit in rubles and of the repayment of Russia's debts. I was in India recently and I began to doubt whether it was necessary to wind up military production. There is a colossal market there for military products, and what if we have to subsequently resurrect military industrial complex plants that have been converted to the production of pots and pans."

The president's verdict at the end of the discussion of the Economy Ministry chief's report was a severe one. Adventurism is abroad in the state—an injection of 3.5 trillion rubles [R], which will have an adverse effect on people's lives before the end of the year, and practically no one is monitoring this process. We are not out to judge the minister, of course, but the ministry must thoroughly review its work, the president stressed.

The second speaker at the session was S. Glazyev, minister of foreign economic relations. He noted that Russian exports did not increase last year, although measures were implemented to liberalize foreign economic activity. This was mainly due to the lack of export credits, which would have supported the enterprises in their entry into the foreign market. This year there are plans to reorganize state trade enterprises by selling shares in them and to transfer many of their functions to relevant producers.

Around $40 billion will be required this year to service the foreign debt, S. Glazyev said. But we can pay no more than $2-3 billion without destroying the economy. So we need support from the Paris Club. The minister also talked about the reorientation of the East European countries to the West because of the switch to transactions in hard currency. In this connection the president made the following remark: The countries of Eastern Europe started to swing toward the West because of the inefficiency and inactivity of our departments.

G. Khizha suggested that sales of Russian weapons, many types of which are superior to foreign models, are slow and unsystematic. What you need in this area, on the one hand, is supervision, and, on the other hand, the removal of numerous bureaucratic barriers, as a result of which arms manufacturers cannot participate in exhibitions amd fairs abroad through the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. The president proposed that the solution of this question be entered into the minutes and he stressed: "I was not happy with your predecessor's work and I hope that you will step up the foreign economic relations ministry's work considerably this year."

After the two ministers had reported, the session took a break and the president took no further part in it. The Council of Ministers Presidium listened to an account of the implementation of targeted conversion programs in 1992 and the basic guidelines for conversion in 1993, which was delivered by V. Glukhikh, chairman of the Russian Federation Committee on the Defense Sectors of Industry, and a report on the review of the concessions for foreign economic activity this year.

Volskiy, Travkin, Academics Discuss Roundtable, Politics

LD0602131793

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2030 GMT on 5 February carries a 15-minute recorded interview program with Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs; Nikolay Travkin, chairman of the Russian Democratic Party; Academician Leonid Abalkin; and Academician Nikolay Petrakov. The program, entitled "In Search of Accord," is moderated by Vladimir Martynov.

Martynov begins the discussion with an assessment of the roundtable talks in Moscow. He asks about possible points of disagreement at the talks.

Volskiy says: "I think there will be many bones of contention. One is the referendum and attitudes toward it. A second problem that might crop up is the attempt to bring economic policy programs closer together. I spoke today about various options for the country's future development, how to develop and which road to take. Do we take the first, second, or third road—or a peculiarly Russian one, or the European or American road.

"This is very important. There will be many sticking points. What is heartening, however, is that so many parties have joined in the event. Twelve are here today, which is a respectable total. I think that we have to find ways to work together so that Moscow can at least begin to be an example to our oblasts, krays, and republics. There are a whole range of arguments between the executive and legislative authorities."

Martynov introduces Travkin as the man probably most in touch with sentiment in the regions. Martynov asks if Moscow should set an example.

Travkin says that only Moscow thinks it should set any kind of example. People in the regions, meanwhile, have more down to earth issues on their minds. Travkin says talk in Moscow is about the constitution and political system—about reform and so forth—but just 150 km from the capital, 99 percent of the people are worried only about where to get their next meal. This fact notwithstanding, the first thing that the roundtable should sort out is the referendum, Travkin says; this is the starting point for all other issues.

Martynov asks Abalkin if the academic and research community can help to resolve the political, economic, and social ills currently gripping Russian society.

Abalkin says: "I think so, yes. It can and must help, but it cannot solve them. Science does not solve problems. It provides an assessment of the situation and can give expert conclusions on why this or that is happening. Incidentally, the course of economic and social phenomena in 1992 has very clearly shown who is professional and who is not. Not one of the government's declarations, intentions, or promises has come into being, not one of them: stabilization by autumn, inflation down to a minimum, a virtually deficit-free budget, and a convertible ruble by summer.

"As far as our forecasts are concerned—which were based purely on professional analysis of how events were developing—well, they have been completely vindicated. But it is not up to us to decide to help. We not only can help, but we must. It is a professional ethic and duty, if you like, for the scientific community. My assessment of the situation differs slightly from that of the other guests in this conversation. We are unclear in our minds. We have dulled people's senses.

"All we get now is: Are you for Yeltsin or for Khasbulatov?. This is like: Are you for the Reds or for the Whites? It is totally primitive, and we have driven the public to such hysteria and silliness that it is now difficult to get anything done. The referendum will solve nothing. We need to have clarity, we need to have a clear vision of Russia's future and of what we want. We should visualize Russia not now, not even in two years' time. When it comes down to it, Russia is a great power when you take its history and geopolitical situation into account, and its moral and spiritual values. It is among the great powers, along with the others that take responsibility for how their societies progress."

Abalkin says that the debate has descended to trivialities, which is why he presented a more far-sighted economic reform program at the roundtable today. This program, he believes, better meets the country's needs.

Martynov asks if such clarity of vision is attainable, given the great variety of views at the roundtable?

Petrakov answers: "That is a difficult question. I cannot rule out that the roundtable might become only a political talking shop. There is great danger of that happening, so we have to get it off to a good start and somehow specify the problems it is facing, the economic and political problems."

Petrakov says he is more concerned about the economic side of it, and how social policy affects financial stabilization. He says: "For example, the Supreme Soviet stipulates a new minimum pension. The government says, hang on a minute, but where does the cash for this come from? That is just a publicity stunt. There is no money, so we cannot raise pensions. But wait a minute: With today's prices can anyone survive on 2,000 rubles?"

Petrakov continues: "When shock therapy is introduced, people can stop buying shoes and clothes and get by for a month or so by spending all their money on bread or groats. When this reform process becomes protracted, however, you cannot avoid the issue of social guarantees for the public. Hence, there is a link between social and economic policy, and this is the kind of thing that the roundtable should be discussing."

Martynov says that all are agreed that Russia needs financial, economic, and social stability most of all, to which the program guests add political stability. If so, Martynov continues, is such stability a possibility, given the current composition of government and parliament and the standoff between the two bodies?

Volskiy says: "I think it is possible, because confrontation is not an objective but a subjective matter. It is time to stop trying to establish who is in charge. That is the main thing."

Travkin says that political arguments start only when the sides do not know what they want or how to get it. He cites the example of Professor Popov [former Mayor of

Moscow], who accused him of laying the foundations of the current political difficulties in the city by his administrative reforms, which, he says, took no account of realities.

Martynov asks how the research and academic community can contribute to resolving such conflicts? Abalkin responds by reiterating his previous comments regarding the lack of professional skills. But many in the current government are from academe, says Martynov: What happens when the teachers are unable to learn?

Travkin and Abalkin agree, and urge that those in charge must seek a broader range of advice. The roundtable serves the purpose of providing such advice. Take the issue of ownership of property, Abalkin says: There are numerous models available worldwide, so there is no need to stick rigidly to one in particular.

Martynov asks each guest to answer briefly the final question: What is truth? Volskiy says he is not up to philosophizing right now, and he passes on the question.

Travkin says that truth is what you leave behind you; everything else is problematical.

Abalkin says truth is a multicolored picture, neither eternal nor absolute; it is not black and white, but a tapestry of all combinations and ranges of color.

Petrakov mentions a French thinker who believed that truth is in fine shades and hues: be afraid of the clear-cut and hence of fanaticism. He warns that attempts to draw the world in sharply contrasting colors will bring only grievous consequences.

Referendum Issues

Democratic Parties Draft Strategy on Referendum

OW0702170993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The all-Russia conference of democratic parties, movements and organizations, which ended its work in Moscow on Sunday, has drafted the president's possible strategy for the April referendum. According to it, the president should propose his own version of the basic constitutional provisions which must become the constitutional law of the transitional period. The supporters of reforms believe that given the current instability and political confrontation, it would be inexpedient to adopt a new constitution. They think, however, that the constitutional law of the transitional period will provide the procedure of adopting the constitution, following stabilization. The constitutional law should include guarantees of the principle of the division of authority, a system of ensuring a balance between different branches of authority, and also the president's right to dissolve the parliament and announce elections. It must also confirm the right to private property, including private land ownership, and guarantees of Russia's territorial integrity.

Adopt Statement on Preparations

OW0602141493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday in Moscow, participants of All-Russian conference of democratic organizations adopted a statement in which they speak about the beginning of organizational preparation for April referendum and formation of public committees in all regions of Russian Federation to support the referendum.

Delegates made a decision to express nonconfidence in parliament's speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and to begin campaign for his resignation.

The statement of the conference cites that the only aim of the proposal to convene extraordinary congress of people's deputies is to deprive the Russians of the right for referendum on vital issues. This violates the agreement reached at the 7th Congress of People's Deputies in last December.

Participants of the meeting warned that in case practical actions are undertaken to convene the congress they will begin collection of signatures to support referendum proposed by President in December "Whom do you commission to draw Russia out of crisis - to Congress of People's Deputies or to Russian President"? In the opinion of participants of the conference, the meeting of representatives appointed by parliament's leadership and called "a round table" by them (it was held on Friday in Moscow) has nothing in common with "a round table" because its participants have no appropriate authorities delegated by their parties or organizations.

Representatives of democratic organizations believe that a real "round table" is necessary which will be devoted not to the solution of the issue how to save parliamentary leaders from nation-wide referendum but to the search of consent as the people should have a possibility to freely express their will on basic issues of Russia's future, the statement cites.

Yeltsin Sends Greetings

LD0602155793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] A working conference for the preparation of the April referendum has opened today in the building of the Moscow mayor's office. ITAR-TASS reports that over 600 representatives of democratic organizations from all the regions of Russia are participating in the meeting, as well as the members of New Russia bloc of political parties, the writer's organization April and a number of other public associations. At the meeting Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian president's administration, gave an

analysis of the situation that has developed in respect to the referendum. He conveyed the Russian president's greetings to the participants of the conference, in which Yeltsin gave a positive assessment of the forum and of striving to fight for the course of adopting a new constitution.

During two days the political parties and public associations of Russia that adhere to democratic views will discuss, and, presumably, form a coordinated stand on the forthcoming April referendum.

Filatov on Yeltsin's Referendum Beliefs

OW0602125793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1239 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sergey Filatov, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's chief of staff, said on Saturday at a meeting of democratic organizations called by the Democratic Russia movement and the Democratic Choice bloc that the President still believes in the necessity of the April referendum and expects the democratic forges to support him on this issue.

Filatov said it is abnormal that one branch of state power - the Congress of People's Deputies - can "absorb" the other branches. "We must turn to the people and solve the problem if we wish to continue with reforms," he said.

In principle, he continued, a referendum would be unnecessary if the problems caused by Articles 104 and 109 in the Constitution, giving power monopoly to the representative branch, could be solved by the Constitutional Court or "some kind of assembly." However, it is premature to speak about any such possibility, he said.

Speaking about the re-election of power bodies before schedule, Filatov said that, in order to avoid a power vacuum, the re-election of the representative branch should not be timed to coincide with that of the executive branch. The dates for such elections should be set by a constituent assembly, a body which, in his opinion, must be convoked to pass the new constitution.

Mikhail Poltoranin, head of the Federal Information Center, also insisted that the referendum is essential. Otherwise, he said, Russia may end up falling apart. The Congress of People's Deputies is a "sum of local interests," which will ultimately clash with Russia's federal interests, and, as a result, the country will disintegrate into a multitude of independent republics, he said.

Kozyrev Supports Referendum

OW0602130393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1239 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stands for referendum and strong executive power in the course of reforms. Appearing at All-Russian conference of democratic organizations on Saturday in Moscow, he underlined that democratic forces should present a precise slogan, for example, "President, presidential republic or chaos?" at the forthcoming plebiscite.

Kozyrev emphasized that there exists only such alternative. "World experience demonstrates that campaign on referendum should be conducted energetically and quickly and today there is such opportunity," said the Minister.

Speaking about Russia's foreign policy, Kozyrev pointed out that it will remain democratic, there is and there will be no radical changes in Russian foreign policy. He added that there can be several corrections in the balance of eastern and western policy but we "shall not conclude any compromises with the red-browns, at least until I am at power." [sentence as received]

Zorkin To Announce Moratorium on Referendum

OW0802123793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1216 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the near future chairman of Russian Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin intends to make a public appearance with an initiative to announce a moratorium on the referendum on key provisions of the republic's Basic Law scheduled for April 11. Sources close to the Constitutional Court said that Zorkin can probably voice his statement on Tuesday, February 9, following the court's session devoted to verification of the constitutionality of the President's decree on disbandment of the Front of National Salvation organizational committee.

According to information from the Constitutional Court, Zorkin is convinced that a moratorium on conduction [as received] of the referendum "should be supported by guarantees for all branches of supreme power." They imply a tough observance of the principles of division of powers and preserving the President's authorities and system of executive power in full scale.

The Chairman of the Constitutional Court also believes that it is necessary to announce a moratorium on premature elections of the head of state and representative power bodies. According to Zorkin, new elections of the president, parliament's deputies, and councils at other levels should be conducted simultaneously when the term of representative power bodies' authorities expires (1995) so that these elections will not be "extraordinary" ones.

Zorkin also stands for moratorium on introduction of changes in the Constitution of Russian Federation. However, in Zorkin's opinion, one important change can be made already today, namely, to exclude a provision on Congress of People's Deputies from the Constitution. Zorkin believes that Congress, as a power body, should cease its existence and Russia's citizens will elect only members of a two-chamber parliament.

Rutskoy Says Referendum Dispute May Upset 'Fragile Balance'

OW0502180093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1723 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy believes that the political battles over whether there should be a referendum on a new Russian constitution or should be none [as received] is evidence that the fragile balance of power, achieved at the December Congress of People's Deputies, is about to be upset.

Vice-President Rutskoy told IF [INTERFAX] on Friday [5 February] that the people will find it rather difficult to make a decision on the referendum if the questions for it are formulated by the Supreme Soviet by the beginning of March. "One thing is clear to me", Vice-President Rutskoy said. "The country needs a new constitution, because without it many of our law-making efforts would be futile or have the reverse effect in a number of cases."

Rutskoy agreed with those politicians who have been saying the Russian people are not ready for a referendum in April and warning of the negative effects it may have on society, including the territorial integrity of our society". "The political and economic situation as it is, the referendum would spell a great risk of making a mess of everything", Rutskoy said. The Vice-President said he hoped that "the chance of making the correct decision was not missed yet and it is still possible to avoid another spiral of confrontation".

Rutskoy also said that he had doubts about the idea, put forward by many Russian people's deputies, of convening an emergency Congress of People's Deputies in March to call off the referendum. He said that in case an emergency congress is convened "it would be very difficult to stay within the framework of a civilized dialogue". Besides, the Vice-President said that "it is worth asking, was there any reason in making a decision only to reverse it three months later".

Asked about his attitude to the proposal for the early elections of the President and Parliament, Rutskoy replied he didn't think the elections were a panacea. "It's not elections that one should be concerned about the most, but the disastrous condition of the economy ruined by reckless experimentation", Rutskoy said. In his view this is the reason for focusing efforts on that matter and promoting the cooperation of all constructive forces for the sake of implementing reforms.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1824 GMT on 5 February carries the following related interview with Rutskoy by special correspondent Marina Chernukha from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature:

[IF [INTERFAX]: Much interest has been expressed in your view of the April referendum on the main provisions of the Russian Constitution.

[RUTSKOY: Fierce political debate has certainly been kindled by this issue and forecasts and opinions have much weight. These are becomimg more and more contradictory, ranging from the slogans "Let's have a referendum!" to "Let's boycott the referendum!" This situation alone testifies to the fact that the shaky balance achieved at the Congress of People's Deputies is beginning to break down. Many statements are clearly premature because no one yet knows precisely what the referendum will be about. I think that if parliament is unable to formulate these questions before the beginning of March then it will be thoroughly difficult for the population to make any kind of responsible decision. Only one thing is, as yet, clear in my mind: The nation is in desperate need of a new Constitution, since without this many of our legislative efforts will prove futile and even have a retroactive effect in some cases.

[IF: How do you react to opinions that the referendum must either be postponed or cancelled altogether?

[RUTSKOY: I think that many politicians are correct when they say that the population is unprepared for this action and that the referendum could have negative consequences for Russian society and even for the state's territorial integrity. A referendum during the current political and economic situation is very risky. I am on the whole in agreeement with the arguments put forth by Chairman Zorkin of the Constitutional Court and consider that all responsible movements should once again weigh up the pro's and con's. I hope that the opportunity to make the correct decision has not yet evaded us and that any possible new act of political confrontation can be avoided. However I doubt the wisdom of the proposal by many deputies to call an emergency congress in March to cancel the resolution on the referendum mainly because it will be very difficult to maintain civilised dialogue between the sides.

[IF: What do you think about the proposal for early elections for the president and to parliament? This has the backing of many representatives of the "Civic Union", of which you yourself are a member....

[RUTSKOY: I consider that today it is impossible to state categorically that such elections will be a cure for all. The point is not the elections themselves but the lamentable state of our economy, which has been been ruined by thoughtless experimentation. For this reason, in my view, all attention must be focused on co- operation between constructive movements in the name of implementing reform. The "round table" which began today could represent a major step in this direction. Decisions about elections are being taken in accordance with the Constitution of the Congress of People's Deputies.]

Rumyantsev Warns Referendum Could Fragment Republic

OW0602203693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1732 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Council of the Russian Social Democratic Center (RSDC) led by Oleg Rumyantsev has warned of the danger of separate republics including additional questions in the April referendum, an act which could transform the federation into an "agreed, amorphous organisation like the CIS." [sentence as received]

The increasing likelihood that the referendum will result in failure, as indicated in a statement issued by the RSDC, threatens to deliver a terminable blow to the shaky Russian statehood. The statement also pointed out that it would be necessary to prepare in the shortest possible time and approve at the 8th Congress of People's Deputies a new constitutional agreement between the three arms of power.

Rumyantsev said at talks with Valeriy Zorkin, Chairman of the Constitutional Court, that he backed the proposal for a new agreement. He was in favour of the inclusion of a law on political reform in the new constitutional agreement under the new title "Federal legislative power."

According to the law, Rumyantsev said, parliament would be established as the highest legislative authority in the Federation.

The Center's statement suggested that the law on political reform and the calling of elections for all levels of power could be passed not earlier than fall this year and that the elections could take place not earlier than spring, 1994.

At a meeting of the RSDC's Council, Rumyantsev warned that the meeting of the Council of Heads of Republics within the Russian Federation under Boris Yeltsin's chairmanship in Moscow Tuesday could turn into a "political deal."

He said that this deal would entail the republics within the Russian Federation undertaking to back Yeltsin in the referendum in return for concessions by the president in terms of extending both rights and sovereignty for these republics.

Military Issues

Grachev Says Defense Ministry May Become Demilitarized

LD0502154193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1447 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS—"Maybe after 1995, when the situation in the Army stabilises, we shall decide to turn our Defence Ministry into a civilian establishment," Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev told the weekly "ARGUMENTY I FACTY". "Such a ministry," in his opinion, "should resolve military- political problems and fill orders for armaments, hardware and the sale of weapons. The role of the general staff will be to control the troops".

"The reduction of our army has brought down the number of generals," Grachev said. "At the present time, there are 2,218 generals in the Russian Armed Forces, that is one general per 1,262 men and 312 officers. In 1987 there was one general per 530 men and 169 officers."

"I prefer the huge stockpiles of conventional armaments to be liquidated, including in our country," the minister said. "This is why I back President Yeltsin's view that in our times an end should be put to all nuclear weapons," he added.

According to Grachev, planes armed with nuclear weapons have been "removed from patrol duty. Both the Americans and we have strategic bombers and nuclear bombs, but they have been detached from aircraft racks and placed in permanently controlled storehouses. There is not a single aircraft anywhere with nuclear weapons aboard on patrol duty or on the alert, either on the ground or even more so in the air," he stated.

Defense Ministry: No Tactical Nuclear Weapons on Ships

OW0502143993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Defense Ministry has confirmed that all tactical nuclear weapons have been removed from ships, submarines and aircraft belonging to the Russian navy in accordance with statements made by the Soviet president October 5, 1992 and the Russian president January 29, 1992. The weapons have been placed in central storage. The announcement was made by the Russian defense ministry's press center in response to a request addressed to the ministry regarding the above matter.

Supreme Soviet

Chernomyrdin Speech Presages Continued Inflation Policy

MK0702073893 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 6 Feb 93 p 3

[Viktor Serov, Sergey Viktorov report: "Chernomyrdin Meets With Industrialists. Government Has No Plans To Revert to Direct Price Regulation"]

[Text] The Viktor Chernomyrdin cabinet will tighten state control over the economy this year, but government intervention in the reform process will formally be carried out using market methods. This is how experts assess the main results of the prime minister's first meeting with industrialists from among Supreme Soviet deputies, which was held in the Supreme Soviet on 5 February.

According to KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts, the meeting evidently was prompted by Chernomyrdin's desire to assuage the concerns of the directors and parliamentarians over the Russian economic crisis.

Viktor Chernomyrdin in fact used the meeting to outline the Council of Ministers' 1993 economic program before its official presentation.

Describing the reform of the financial system and the strengthening of the ruble as priority tasks, Viktor Chernomyrdin said that measures to improve the system of commercial bank licensing and controls over commercial bank loans could be the first step toward achieving this. His statement was greeted with approval by the industrialists present at the meeting. Statements of this kind generally signify that the government, under the pretext of fighting inflation, will soon tighten controls over the commercial banks. Experts in fact point out that the prime minister's speech could be interpreted to mean that the government will continue to pursue an inflationary policy. This conclusion is supported by Viktor Chernomyrdin's remark that, as a measure to buoy up Russian enterprises, the government plans to introduce indexation of their working capital in 1993. This time, however, each industrial enterprise that wishes to receive a loan would be formally required to issue a promissory note for the amount borrowed.

Viktor Chernomyrdin's pronouncements with regard to prices were judged by the experts as being particularly important in terms of the government's economic policy. The prime minister said that most prices in Russia have already been "freed," and that the state does not intend to revert to direct price regulation. It follows from what Viktor Chernomyrdin said that Russia will completely go over to world prices by 1994. Observers note in this regard that Yegor Gaydar's government planned to achieve the same thing by 1993. Viktor Chernomyrdin seems to take a more cautious and conservative approach, preferring "not to hurry," so as to avoid any ill-considered steps that might weaken state control over the economy. In the experts' view, however, the objective fact that prices cannot be controlled effectively because of the current goods shortages will finally prompt him to liberalize prices completely, especially those of energy resources—particularly since the prime minister came from the raw materials sector, which has a greater interest than any other in selling its products at world prices. [Article contains the following boxed passage:

Viktor Chernomyrdin outlines the government's aims in 1993:

—to create an effective mechanism for stabilizing the ruble;
—to improve the system of control over commercial bank loans;
—to introduce indexation of the working capital of enterprises;
—to eliminate completely the system of evenly distributing centralized loans and replace it by a system of granting loans to the key sectors for specific purposes;
—to conclude cartel agreements on prices for non-profitmaking enterprises;
—to take a range of measures to stimulate sales of agricultural produce to the state by producers of all types of ownership.]

Chernomyrdin Meets With Parliamentary Faction

OW0502180593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1723 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has said he is ready to cooperate with all structures of representative government at all levels. Speaking at his meeting with the participants in the conference of commodity producers and the parliamentary faction "Industrial Union" in Moscow on Friday [5 February] Prime Minister Chernomyrdin said: "We are in such a condition that there should be no political gambling. There must be one policy—that of restoring the economy".

Chernomyrdin asked Russian people's deputies to analyze the government privatization program for 1993, that will go before the Supreme Soviet for approval shortly, and to be in no hurry to privatize major industrial enterprises. He believes that special preparations will be required and that the privatization of those industries had already gone too far. The Prime Minister suggested giving priority to the privatization of small businesses in trade, public catering and the services.

Chernomyrdin declared his intention to reconsider all benefits granted to enterprises. He said that "many billion rubles worth of benefits have been given away, yet, it was unclear in what way they were being used". The Prime Minister said the government would focus on support for those enterprises that manufacture goods competitive in the world market and for advanced technologies, in the first place, defence industries undergoing conversion and on the protection of rural areas.

Says Some Taxes May Be Lowered

LD0502185793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1719 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS—"I cannot promise that in the near future the entire tax system will be reconsidered towards lower taxes," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said.

Speaking at a meeting with manufacturers and members of the Parliamentary Union Faction on Friday, Chernomyrdin said the government plans to lower some taxes, but these reductions will concern only concrete products and industries.

He said tax revenues fell 30 per cent short of the target figures in 1992, seriously damaging the republic's budget, and stressed the need to reinforce tax inspectorates.

The protection of Russian manufacturers in their competition with foreign businesses is a top priority task, the premier said. He said the solution of this task will be tackled in three directions: Manufacturing of products which are able to compete on the world market and bring

hard currency profits, developing advanced technologies and supporting agricultural production.

Calls For Stabilization of Prices, Wages

LD0502222693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By S. Milyanchikov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] At Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's meeting today with industrialists, the prime minister imparted to them some of the government's plans aimed at stabilizing our economy.

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] It is possible to take a whole technological line, a chain—from a bore hole to a gas station, for example—in which oil workers, chemists, metallurgists, and builders are involved, if all of them, for a certain period of time—for two or three months or for half a year—raise neither prices nor their wages. Let them keep this line until the situation stabilizes itself, until both prices and wages are brought into alignment with existing requirements. [end recording]

By using this method, the new Russian prime minister is hoping to find some point of equilibrium in relations within a technological chain currently lacking in balance—which could then become a starting point for later steps.

Khasbulatov's Volograd Speech Published

PM0502145193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Feb 93 First Edition p 2

["Consensus and Democracy Are What Russia Needs. Ruslan Khasbulatov's Speech in Volgograd"]

[Text] Dear people of Volgograd! Fellow countrymen!

Dear veterans of the historic victory at Stalingrad!

Dear holiday guests!

There are days and dates in the country's history which, in the midst of life's adversities and our day to day worries, suddenly make your heart beat faster and remind each of us of the main and only thing that inspires the lives of everyone who makes up a small part of our motherland's great soul.

There are words whose very sound awakens our slumbering memory of history and reminds us that we belong to a great people. Such are the words Stalingrad—over which a great battle passed like a fiery whirlwind—the Battle of Stalingrad, and the Stalingrad Victory.

Today, celebrating the Stalingrad Victory five decades on and looking at the veterans' faces, we ask ourselves again and again how you—our glorious warriors, our fathers and grandfathers—were able to come through this demonic clash between the forces of good and evil. Why did the defenders of Stalingrad fight to the death, repeating the phrase "There is no land for us beyond the Volga"?

How could the land itself withstand the gigantic collision of fire and steel when it seemed that the heavens themselves were raging against the defenders, sowing death and destruction, turning everything—dead and alive—into ashes?

Love of their homeland, freedom, and independence are what helped them to survive and prevail.

The patriotism and honor of our servicemen led them to victory, since patriotism is love of fatherland, it is duty heroically done for the fatherland, and the lofty honor of being a citizen and serviceman for your country.

The Battle of Stalingrad showed the people's courage, their heroism, and valor.

The victory at Stalingrad showed the multinational people's love of their great motherland, its freedom, and independence.

Those who survived and all those for whose sake millions of Stalingraders gave their lives are duty bound to hold sacred this heroism and do everything in their power to ensure that the hopes and dreams of the victors are turned into reality.

Not everything developed as the participants of the battle would have wished. Our postwar history was difficult. A people rent by war courageously licked its wounds, doing without even necessities.

People revived the economy, achieved huge success in making the country prosper, and in many spheres brought science, technology, culture, and art to the forefront of modern civilization.

But, at the same time, there was an objective need for major political and economic change. Reform was needed—large-scale reform—and it was the people themselves who demanded it. At a time when the world was setting an example of the development of democracy and progress, free-thinking people in our country were questing, awakening public opinion, and striving to find a way out of the pre-crisis situation that had emerged. The only pity was that the reform movement was headed not by creative reformers but by destructive reformers.

Events of recent years have been dramatic.

It is hard to say how objective was the collapse of a historically mighty state which had stood the test of time and wars—both "hot" and "cold." However much ultraradicals may try to call the collapse inevitable and, supposedly, historically conditioned by the imperial nature of the Union, people have found this calamity painful and are striving to do all they can to preserve and strengthen integration within the framework of those countries which were previously part of the Soviet Union. And, above all, to preserve the human contacts that exist between our countries and act as a basis for rapprochement and unity.

The country's economy has suffered irreparable loss—1992 will go down in political and economic history as a year that saw a huge failure of the proclaimed reforms, a year of lost opportunities, and a year of weak-willed authorities. Was there really any objective reason why meat and milk production in our undernourished country should suddenly fall 30-40 percent last year, while industrial output slumped by more than 20 percent? Where is the logic, what objective reasons are there for it? Who could claim that there were any? Only flippant people!

People have started consuming less (up to 40 percent less) basic foodstuffs! Living standards have deteriorated considerably for 70 percent of the population.

All these catastrophic processes cannot be put down to any objective factors.

The fault lies elsewhere—colossal mistakes were made in the organization of reform as a result of an adventurist and reckless attitude being taken to the country's most intricate economic complex. All these mistakes have to be seriously analyzed and rapidly rectified by relying on people themselves and on the regions. We must make all social strata—our workers and intelligentsia, servicemen and young people, economic leaders and rural people, pensioners and entrepreneurs, all political forces and the trade unions—into the allies of reform. We must clearly map out the basic foundations for the kind of society and the kind of goals we are striving for in implementing reform.

This Russian parliamentary and government delegation has been in the Volgograd area for three days. Wherever we went—plants, organizations, or meetings with local deputies, workers, oblast leaders, military men, and higher educational establishment lecturers and students—we have heard the same old questions: When will the rapid collapse of the country and the decline in its production, scientific, and cultural potential end? When will people stop getting poorer? When will the authorities make some responsible decisions? When will the top-level squabbling and intrigues, and the disparagement of the representative authorities cease?

There are at least two strategic conditions which undoubtedly need to be met if Russia is once more to quietly and confidently develop its economy and culture, and if the country is to take its proper place in the world as a great power.

The first condition is consensus among all political and national-civic forces to resolve the main issues of economic, social, and cultural development.

The second condition is the preservation and deepening of democratic development. We need at all costs to ensure at least the level of democracy we have achieved, and to organize and formulate a modern, constitutional, democratic, federal republic. Only by relying on democracy and on the parliamentary-representative foundations of the state's life—as the source of all democratic power—will we be able to achieve success. It is on this basis that we can rally all social forces—by avoiding authoritarianism and a regime of personal power, and by striving for a truly sensible and balanced elaboration of acute problems and ensuring they are resolved.

I want to emphasize once again that consensus and democracy are what Russia needs today. Not an artificial battle between authorities, not an attempt by any means—including unconstitutional means—to oust any authorities. That should not be our choice.

Of course, all this is not easy, not everything will fall into our laps. And we need to remember that human life does not last forever. But the people's memory does. And one would like politicians to give more frequent thought to the mark they will leave on history.

Be we must be optimistic. And I am sure that good sense will prevail!

Once again I congratulate the veterans of the Battle of Stalingrad, all the people of Volgograd, and the holiday guests on the 50th anniversary of the victory in this historic battle on the Volga, and I wish you good luck and happiness.

Defenders of Stalingrad, dead and alive—may you be forever remembered with the deepest respect!

Thank you.

Khasbulatov Press Secretary Issues Statement

LD0602194793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1919 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 6 TASS—Press Secretary of the Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Konstantin Zlobin circulated a statement here today. The statement says the following:

"Mass media has circulated a statement of Russian President Press Secretary V. Kostikov, describing the negative estimation by Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov of the president's activities on holding the economic reform as 'a low political intrigue'.

"Fact of mutual criticism in the supreme echelons of state power has never been considered a political meanness by standards of civilized democratic society. The president himself often criticizes deputies and sometimes allows himself anti-constitutional statements, threatening to 'dissolve' the Congress of People's Deputies and, it seems, has once tried to actually do it.

"The main reason for provocative statement of the presidential press secretary seems to be explained by the fact it is the Supreme Soviet leadership, who has recently put forward a number of initiatives, including pre-term elections of the deputy corps and the president in spring, 1994.

"On the initiative of the Supreme Soviet, there was a roundtable meeting, when the Supreme Soviet chairman critically estimated actions of the executive power and called for deepening genuine democracy and concord.

"Most likely, the statement of V. Kostikov, known for his insulting pronouncements in address of the Supreme Soviet chairman in the spirit of Mikhail Poltoranin fabrications to the UNITA newspaper, was done to lower the significance of these initiatives. As known, the interview was very negatively estimated by the Russian and world public.

"As for the estimation of activities of the government and the president, it was also done in the report of the Supreme Soviet chairman at the 7th Congress of People's Deputies and the Congress itself in a corresponding resolution.

"Thus, there was nothing new in the conversation of the Supreme Soviet chairman and the foreign guest: political line of the Supreme Soviet leadership fully corresponds to decisions of the recent Congress of People's Deputies.

"I would also like to note the style of the presidential press secretary's statement: 'hypocrisy', 'false game', 'impudence and dissimulation', 'low political intrigues'. I must say with all the responsibility these words actually characterize the current style of work and pronouncements of the president's associates.

"These people somehow consider the state head their property, forgetting, it is the matter of a people's elected representative, whose actions must reflect the will of all Russian residents and not a narrow group of superradicals, who impose on the president and society great shocks and more revolutions."

Khasbulatov Criticizes 'Parallel Government'

OW0802103193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov has said that one of the Deputies' biggest mistakes was to "create two systems of executive power—a governmental one and a presidential one." Khasbulatov was speaking at a Moscow seminar for leaders of Councils of People's Deputies on all levels Monday [8 February]. He pointed out that the formation by the president of a "parallel government"—his administration—was unconstitutional. "What need have we of a prime minister if the whole of executive power is under the control of the president?" Khasbulatov asked those present.

The speaker expressed the view that the "appearance now of a strong prime minister would see an end to all talk of contradictions between legislative and executive power." He said that "these two governments were capable of conflict." Khasbulatov said that "rivalry between officialdom in the parallel structures of executive power had reached its limits and had brought about the crisis in executive power." The speaker proposed an increased role for the federal government. The president, in his opinion, should present parliament with a candidate for premier who, after approval, would be accountable to parliament alone.

Khasbulatov considered, however, that the institution of president must not be discarded as this would "escalate the situation." He said that the current system of power in Russia would lead to the creation of a "form of chief". "Autocratic superstructures are already in place, only without the Central Committee and Politburo," he commented.

Khasbuslatov considered that it was impossible to associate the current the reform process with specific names. "Our politicians ought not to become rooted in their places," he said. "I, for one, may leave the main political scene of my own will." Khasbulatov then appealed for parliament to display a greater interest in and to begin to prepare for the referendum.

If, he stressed, the referendum were not to take place in any of the republics or regions of Russia, this would mean that federal power would lose the trust of the people. In this event the initiators of the plebiscite should resign immediately and not wait until spring 1994 (i.e. the date proposed for the elections—IF [INTERFAX] NOTE).

Khasbulatov was of the opinion that it was impossible to work normally under present circumstances and that elections for People's Deputies and the president should, therefore, take place in spring, 1994.

Khasbulatov Opens Regional Leaders Seminar

LD0802104193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The problems and methods of strengthening political and economic reform in the Russian Federation are the subject of a seminar that opened in the Russian Academy of Administration in Moscow today.

The seminar is being attended by heads of the Supreme Soviets of the republics within Russia and chairmen of soviets of people's deputies at all levels. The budget and privatization program for 1993 and social and tax policies will be discussed, and there will be a number of roundtable discussions.

The seminar was opened by Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Russia. He delivered a report on strengthening political stability and the democratic structure in Russia.

The speaker once again spoke very critically about the executive authorities and again called for elections for deputies and for the president this spring.

Wants Government Subordinate to Parliament

LD0802111793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1022 GMT 8 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—Russian parliament speaker is against the elimination of the post of the president, but believes the government should be subordinated to the parliament, rather than to the president.

Addressing a seminar of chairmen of Soviets of People's Deputies of all levels in Moscow on Monday, Ruslan Khasbulatov blamed the current political instability in the country on the crisis inside the executive authority, not on the conflict between the parliament and the government.

Unfortunately, the public does not pay attention to the fact that there are two governments in Russia: The president with his administration and the prime minister with the government, he said.

As the elimination of the post of the president may trigger further instability, Khasbulatov believes it is necessary to strengthen the role of the government. He believes the following procedure to be an ideal one: The president endorses the candidate for the prime minister to parliament, if approved the premier forms his Cabinet of Ministers and submits it to parliament for approval. The government will report only to the parliament.

Khasbulatov believes that the competition between the president and the government does not allow them to control the implementation of laws. One third of the laws adopted by parliament are not fulfilled, even a smaller number of presidential decrees is implemented, he explained.

The speaker said that the existing system strengthens autocratic tendencies in society and threatens democratic achievements. He added that hopes for political stability should be linked not with personalities, but with democratic institutions. "If necessary I am ready to leave big politics myself", he said.

Opposes Constitutional Referendum

LD0802130193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1204 GMT 8 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov is against the holding of a nationwide referendum on the basics of a new Russian constitution because he fears that it may split the Federation and believes that amendments which legislators have introduced to acting constitution in the last 2.5 years have changed it sufficiently.

"Now is not the time to hold the referendum on the basics of a new constitution as it will pose a threat to the integrity of the Federation", he told a meeting of chairmen of Soviets of People's Deputies of all levels on Monday.

The collapse of the Federation is mostly linked to suppositions that several Russian regions will refrain from participating in the referendum.

Khasbulatov also said that acting constitution already fixes the state structure of the country, which he said became possible due to many democratic amendments introduced by lawmakers during the last 2.5 years, including those on human rights, private property, division of powers among the branches of authority.

The speaker also said that 10-12 items which are to be included in the questionnaire of the referendum are too many and may scare off the people. However, the number of items cannot be reduced as it would be a violation of the decision of the latest Congress of People's Deputies, he added.

Still Khasbulatov proposed to include yet another item into the questionnaire—on preterm elections of the president and the parliament in the spring of 1994. He said that fears that the vacuum of power would emerge are groundless as it is possible to make the president fulfil his functions until a new president will be sworn in at the first session of newly-elected parliament.

Rutskoy Warns Against Weakening Federal Authority

OW0502145393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy warned of the danger of weakening federal authority in Russia at Friday's [5 Friday] opening session of the Round Table of political forces in Moscow. He said: "If you shake already-fragile and unstable political and economic structures, it may end in tragedy." In the vice-president's opinion, Russia now has two main problems—socioeconomic stability and economic stability. Rutskoy sees a policy of national consensus as the way to stability. In his estimation, 60%-70% of the population have corresponding, with disagreements arising only in the remaining 30%-40%. National consensus, according to the vice- president, is particularly important for those who live in Russia's republics and provinces.

International Affairs

Foreign Minister Assures U.S. of Embargo Observance

AU0502150393 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 2 Feb 93 p 2

["Statement for the Press" by the Press Center of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UKRINFORM issued in Kiev; date not given]

[Text] Following the agreement reached by Ukraine's president L.M. Kravchuk and U.S. President B. Clinton, a telephone conversation was held on 29 January between the ministers of foreign affairs of Ukraine and the United States. A. Zlenko and W. Christopher discussed a wide range of questions dealing with bilateral relations and certain international problems. The ministers expressed their satisfaction with the gradual development of good relations between the two countries.

A.M. Zlenko drew the attention of the secretary of state to the groundlessness of the accusations claiming that Ukraine was violating the embargo against Yugoslavia and he once again confirmed the consistency and integrity of Ukraine's position on this issue.

Stressing the expediency of maintaining a continuous and constructive dialogue between the external political departments of both countries at all levels, the ministers agreed to hold a meeting in the near future.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Sanctions Against Serbia

LD0602195293 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The press center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine today issued a statement as follows:

The mass media have issued a report about Serbia regarding Ukraine's adherence to the embargo on oil deliveries to the territory of former Yugoslavia as a manifestation of an anti-Serbian position, and in return, threats to introduce relevant sanctions in respect of Ukraine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is authorized to state in this connection that as a member of the international community, Ukraine adopts a responsible attitude toward its obligations in accordance with the UN Charter and strictly complies with the sanctions in respect of Serbia and Montenegro introduced by the Security Council. Unconditional compliance with resolutions by the Security Council can not be regarded as a position hostile to Serbia.

Agreement on Cargoes to Yugoslavia Signed With Romania

OW0602145593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine and Romania will tighten their control over cargoes sent to Yugoslavia via the Danube.

An agreement to that effect was reached on Friday [5 February] by foreign ministry officials from the two countries at a meeting in Odessa.

U.N. inspectors are already working in Ukraine's Danubian ports of Reni and Izmail. They arrived following reports that Ukraine had violated its commitments under the sanctions applied against Yugoslavia by delivering oil products to Serbia, an accusation Ukraine has denied.

Zlenko on Policy Toward Taiwan, China, Mongolia

OW0502163993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1553 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine does not intend to develop relations with Taiwan, but will develop economic ties, according to a statement made by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko Friday [5 February]. He proposed when presenting a convention on consular relations with China to parliament (which was subsequently ratified) that a "separate body" should be set up in the republic especially to contribute to increased economic co-operation with Taiwan.

Regarding relations with China, Zlenko pointed out that Beijing was open to economic co-operation with Kiev. He also said that the China's Communist Party had only "limited" influence on the republic's government.

The Ukrainian minister then drew attention to the future prospects for bilateral relations with Mongolia in connection with the ratification by the Ukrainian parliament of a friendship and collaboration treaty between the two. He said that Mongolia, which had previously been forced to "manoeuvre" between the USSR and China, was currently pursuing "totally independent policies." The minister concluded by saying that "Ukrainian and Mongolian foreign policy interests were fully compatible."

Two Diplomats Reportedly Seek Asylum in Canada

LD0802033893 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0300 GMT 8 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A problem has surfaced in relations between Ukraine and Canada. Kiev decided to recall two high-ranking Ukrainian diplomats from Ottawa for unworthy behavior—they had caused a road accident. In response, the two diplomats asked Canada for political asylum. The Ukrainian ambassador has declared that if the diplomats are given political asylum it will be an insult to his republic.

Report Alleges Sale of Warships to Greece

LD0702190093 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1545 GMT 7 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] MEGAPOLIS EKSPRESS alleges that certain commercial organizations in Ukraine are preparing all the warships of the Black Sea Fleet for dispatch to Greece for sale. The newspaper asserts that the current dual subordination of the Fleet to Russia and Ukraine has resulted in total confusion, and various businessmen have lost no time in taking advantage of this. Everything that can be sold is disappearing from the Black Sea Fleet: fuel, ship property, food stores. On board the ships being prepared to be sent to Greece, the report says, the specification forms have already been translated into English; and even the signs on the cabin walls and bulkheads have already been printed in English.

Officials Refute Russian Allegations Regarding Borders

LD0602173093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The press service of Ukraine border troops refutes the statements in a Russian newspaper that the initiative to establish a Ukrainian-Russian boundary comes from Ukraine. The denial is in specific response to a statement made by Lieutenant General Anatoliy Parakhin, deputy commander of the Russian Federation border troops.

Several months before the Ukrainian president adopted a decision on establishing border customs checks on the state border of Ukraine with Belarus and Russia, according to the press service, the Russian Federation president issued a decree on urgent measures regarding organizing customs checks in the Russian Federation.

Border Controls Said 'Russia's Idea'

OW0602211593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1734 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Ukrainian border-guard forces on Friday [5 February] published a statement saying it was Russia's idea to introduce strict guard and customs regulations on the Ukrainian-Russian border. The statement was a response to an interview of the deputy commander of the Russian border-guard forces, Anatoliy Parakhin, with ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (THE RUSSIAN GAZETTE), in which he said Ukraine was the first to set up checkpoints on the border with Russia.

According to the press service, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's decree introducing strict regulations on the border with Russia was a forced measure taken in response to a similar decree signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The Ukrainian parliament last November decided to increase the strength of the republic's border-guard forces to 9,000. Six detachments and a naval flotilla will be formed to guard Ukraine's borders with Russia and Belarus. A total of 5.8 billion karbovantsi [as received] will be spent this year to maintain all the border-guard forces in the republic.

Yukhnovskyy Demands Ukrainian Portion of Soviet Assets

WS0802102893 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 22 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Oleksiy Trotsenko: "Ukraine Will Repay Its Foreign Debt"]

[Text] **The press conference of Ihor Yukhnovskyy, Ukrainian first deputy prime minister, was devoted to the results of a visit of the Ukrainian state delegation to Moscow and future economic relations with the Russian Federation. Ukrainian and foreign journalists were acquainted with problems concerning the Ukrainian foreign debt and the division of foreign assets of the former Soviet Union.**

If our country wants to be independent, said Ihor Yukhnovskyy, it cannot evade paying its share of the foreign debt. On the other hand, it is entitled to receive its share of the assets. We believe that in both cases, the shares should account for 16.37 percent.

"As for the cancellation the foreign debt, now calculated in the billions," noted the first deputy prime minister, "we have reached an agreement with Russia that both countries will repay their own portion, and will not be responsible for each other's actions." This and other provisions were included in the relevant document signed by Ihor Yukhnovkyy and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin.

Naturally, the journalist wanted to learn if Ukraine would receive premises for its foreign representative offices from Russia. The first prime minister underscored that this issue had also been examined in Moscow. Our country stated that, based on the same figure, 16.37 percent, it was entitled to 100 hectares of land as well as 200,000 square meters of building space, which are located in different countries. As is known, Russia has declared itself a successor of both land plots and buildings that housed embassies, cultural, and other

representative offices of the former Soviet Union. It has repeatedly promised to allocate part of the real estate to Ukrainian institutions, but unfortunately, has not gone farther than that.

And what about shipments of Russian oil to Ukraine? "The Ukrainian specialists," said Ihor Ykhnovskyy, "are already in Russia, where they are studying the possibility of reactivating 30,000 oil wells that were out of operation recently. It stands to reason that this would require considerable financial resources. But the returns could be as considerable, because in the experts' opinion, the operation of those wells can provide Ukraine with a hefty addition to the 20 million tonnes of oil quota that Russia earmarked for us."

One more delicate issue was touched upon at the press conference. Like the Soviet Union in the past, Russia today sells a large amount of military equipment to other countries, receiving huge profits. But the problem is that spare parts for much of this equipment are produced in Ukraine. So, our country has every right to demand its portion of revenues. "We have submitted this question to Russia and will push for its solution," stated Ihor Yukhnovskyy.

The first deputy prime minister also answered a number of other questions.

National Affairs

Faction Links Nuclear Arms Issue to Crimean Issue

LD0602143693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] A news conference of the Congress of Ukraine's National Democratic Forces faction was held after a session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on Thursday [4 February]. The faction numbers 48 deputies and is part of the People's Council [Narodnaya Rada]. The EKSPRESS-KHRONIKA agency reports that leaders of the faction stated that since the Russian leadership questions the fact that Crimea belongs to Ukraine, that is, it puts forward territorial claims, the Congress of National Democratic Forces faction regards nuclear weapons as a strategic deterrent at the current stage. Therefore, when examining the START I treaty in parliament, the faction will regard nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory as its exclusive property. Ukraine should exercise political and technical control over the weapons and will make an independent decision on the issue of their elimination. Ukraine should implement the final elimination of nuclear weapons only together with other nuclear powers.

Democrats Want To Keep Nuclear Arms

OW0602192293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliamentary fraction of the Ukrainian Congress of National and Democratic Movements is in favour of the retention by Ukraine of nuclear weapons and is demanding the authorities' full control over these.

A statement issued Friday [5 February] claimed that "nuclear weapons are a key factor of restraint when almost all neighbouring states, especially Russia, are making territorial claims on Ukraine."

The Congress did, however, concede that it may allow a certain reduction in the number of Ukrainian nuclear warheads.

The Congress is an association of parties of nationalist and democratic persuasion which support the policies of President Leonid Kravchuk. The Congress' parliamentary fraction includes 39 deputies.

Up to the present not one political organisation in Ukraine, apart from the "Green" party, has declared its support for the total liquidation of the republic's nuclear arsenal.

Miners in Donetsk on Strike; Call for Kuchma

LD0702180493 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Miners from three mines of the Chervonoarmiysk Vuhillya production association in Donetsk Oblast have gone on strike. As was reported today by the press service of the independent trade union of miners, the strike began as a protest against the government's violation of the tariff agreement and the agreement on labor and social guarantees. In a letter to Prime Minister Kuchma, the miners demand that Kuchma himself immediately arrive or send an authorized commission for negotiations. It has been reported from the executive committee of the town of (?Dmitriyevka) that only the central mine is completely on strike. Two, the (Grudensk) mine and the Stakhanova mine, have partially stopped worked.

Further on Kuchma's Official Visit to Crimea

Potential for Closer Ties With Russia

LD0602114293 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 5 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] There is still plenty of potential for closer relations between Moscow and Kiev. This was confirmed by Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma on his working visit to the Crimea.

[Correspondent Vladimir Plotnikov] Leonid Kuchma was at the Simferopol food-processing machinery factory today. This factory used to be one of the USSR's leaders in its industry. Now it is going through lean times, as are the shipbuilding and ship-repair yards in Sevastopol and

Kerch, and the Kerch metalworks, plus the light-industry works which the Ukrainian premier has been visiting over the past few days.

True, the managers tried to talk not only of the lack of raw materials and of unemployment and other problems, but also of their breakthroughs. For example, the Simferopol food-processing machinery has delivered several of these machines to Germany and other countries, but what the premier saw did not seem to make him feel any better. [Video shows Kuchma speaking to journalists]

[Begin recording] [Kuchma] Worse, in fact, because I've seen with my own eyes how much we've—I must watch my language here—the relationship between Russia and the Ukraine—we've managed to wreck our relations.

[Unidentified correspondent] Any chances of things getting better?

[Kuchma] That depends on us, on the Russian and Ukrainian Governments, and on Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk. [end recording]

Meets With Crimean, Fleet Officials

OW0502213493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 5 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma today resumed his working visit to the Crimea. During his three-day stay, he plans to visit the cities of Kerch and Simferopol. Earlier, he visited Sevastopol to meet the city administration and local deputies. He also held meetings with Speaker of the Crimean Parliament Nikolay Bagrov and Black Sea Fleet Commander-in-Chief Eduard Baltin.

Local observers believe that the visit was of a political rather than economic nature as was officially announced and followed recent increased activity by separatist movements on the peninsula.

The second emergency congress of the All-Crimean Electorate Movement in January decided to conduct a referendum on April 11 on the Crimea's complete constitutional independence, despite the moratorium placed by the Crimean parliament at the demand by the Ukrainian president. Among the congress' resolutions was the demand that Sevastopol should regain its status as a Russian city and remain the base of the Black Sea Fleet. The fleet, in the deputies' opinion, should be included in the CIS strategic forces.

Kuchma held private meetings with Speaker Nikolay Bagrov, presidential representative to Sevastopol Ivan Yermakov and Black Sea Fleet Commander-in-Chief Baltin to discuss these issues. The officials focused on relations between the city authorities and the fleet command. Yermakov believes the fleet should either be withdrawn from the city, or Ukraine and Russia should finance the city jointly as well as pay for the land occupied by fleet military installations. The presidential representative said the city could provide for itself properly if there was no fleet there.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: A special commission has been set up to carry out an inventory of the city lands occupied by fleet installations. At a recent meeting, Yermakov, Baltin and Ukrainian Navy Commander Boris Kozhyn committed themselves to stick to the Yalta agreements on the Black Sea Fleet signed by the Russian and Ukrainian presidents on August 3, 1992.

The observers point out that as soon as he arrived in Crimea Kuchma has been making statements on his government's intention to entirely normalize relations with Russia. In particular, the prime minister was quoted as saying: "If our peoples conflict, it will be the biggest crime of our politicians. That is why my task as I see it is to put an end to the economic war between Ukraine and Russia."

Experts believe this statement was intended to ease the tensions kindled by the decision by Russian deputies to consider the status of Sevastopol. President Kravchuk described this decision as "a gross imperial intervention in Ukraine's internal affairs which does not reflect kindly on Russian legislative power." Presidential Political and Legal Advisor Aleksandr Yemets subjected the intention of Russian deputies to even harsher criticism. He said that the situation was down Russian self-consciousness, which "is not used to conceiving Ukraine as something separate from Russia."

Meanwhile, Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Leonid Smolyakov addressed a meeting of the city administrative and legislative officials saying "Russia's official position remains the same—Moscow does not have territorial claims on Kiev." The diplomat called the proposed discussion of Sevastopol's status at parliamentary level "absurd". At the same time, Russian diplomats in Ukraine intend to ensure legal and social guarantees for Russian nationals in the Crimea, particularly the granting of dual citizenship to Sevastopol's citizens. Consultations with the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry are being held in order to preserve Sevastopol as the base for the future Black Sea Fleet (Russia proposes it should lease the base in Sevastopol for 99 years).

Ending 'Economic War' 'Main Task'

MK0602092393 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Feb 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Pilat report: "Leonid Kuchma: 'We Have Embarked on a Tough Path.' Ukrainian Premier in Sevastopol"]

[Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma arrived in Sevastopol during the afternoon of 4 February. Nikolay Bagrov, chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, announced that Leonid Kuchma had come to the autonomous republic at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

That evening people's deputies at all levels, enterprise leaders, Ukrainian Navy officers, and representatives of public organizations gathered in the city soviet.

Addressing them, Leonid Kuchma spoke in strong terms about some of the city's economic leaders, who are "holding back production activity, unjustifiably citing so-called objective factors." "We have embarked on a tough path of restoring the state's governability and restoring economic ties with Russia and the other CIS countries," Kuchma stated. The head of the Cabinet of Ministers considers the urgent building of ties with CIS countries to be very important for Ukraine. He stressed that it is no use expecting big investments from abroad. "The only way to salvation is our own efforts," he said. Today's main task, however, the prime minister is convinced, is to end the economic war with Russia. Leonid Kuchma categorically rejected "accusations that Ukraine is guilty of every mortal sin." "Ukraine, for instance, did not leave the ruble area of its own accord, it was thrown out on 1 July 1992, when Russia blocked financial and banking transactions with our young state. But in the final analysis, if there is no single USSR, there can be no single ruble area." In the Ukrainian head of government's opinion, in the near future every former union republic now an independent state will introduce its own currency. That is why a clearing bank for reciprocal settlements was recently set up in Minsk. Incidentally, Leonid Kuchma stated that as of 1 January 1993 Russian enterprises owed Ukraine 530 billion rubles (rubles, not karbovantsy).

The Ukrainian prime minister devoted much attention to Sevastopol's economic development, saying that a draft city budget has been drawn up for 1993 whereby 85 percent of resources will be donated by Ukraine and only 15 percent will be taken from the city's own resources.

Holds News Conference

OW0702142093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1306 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's Premier Leonid Kuchma has announced that his cabinet will sign a decision on the Crimea soon to solve the problems brought up during his tour of the Crimea.

At a news-conference in Simferopol last Saturday [6 February] at the end of his trip, the Premier declared that "Crimea must be a bridge between Ukraine and Russia rather than a zone of confrontation between them". In his opinion, what the peninsula needs most is political stability. Mr. Kuchma said the problem of the Crimean Tatars could not be solved "overnight" and spoke in favour of gradual return to their historical homeland.

On the economic situation in Ukraine, the Premier noted that it "would largely depend on whether Ukrainian politicians would be sensible enough to come to terms with Russia". He reported that Kiev and Moscow were to sign an agreement on squaring accounts between enterprises of the two countries by February 10 and expressed hope that this would solve the problem.

The Prime Minister suggested arranging TV debates with Presidents, Parliamentary Speakers, and Prime Ministers of the two countries to take part "to tell people what makes it difficult for their countries to work and how they should settle emerging problems".

Mr. Kuchma refuted assertions that the shortage of fuel in the republic had anything to do with Kiev's refusal to sign the CIS statute. In his words, "the situation with fuel in Belarus and Kazakhstan is not easier and may be more complex".

Official Explains Attempts To Remove Defense Minister

LD0602145193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] General Volodymyr Mulyava, director of the social and psychological service of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, in an interview with a correspondent of the "Novyny" television and radio agency, explained that the attacks against himself and the defense minister by the majority in the Supreme Council and the conservative generals were because of the defense minister's steadfast course toward developing the independent Armed Forces of Ukraine and because of the defense minister's uncompromising campaign against corruption and abuses in the Armed Forces.

According to Gen. Mulyava, accusations of propagating Banderite-Petlyurite ideology in the Army [Stepan Bandera and Symon Petlyura were Ukrainian nationalists who were assessed negatively in Soviet ideology], and of forced Ukrainianization, are simply comical.

In Gen. Mulyava's opinion, the 153 Supreme Council deputies' signatures on a demand for the removal of Minister Konstyantyn Morozov is another demonstration of the activization of pro-imperialist and pro-communist forces (?in the country), forces that will not be able to reconcile themselves in any way to Ukraine being an independent state and having its own armed forces.

Military Hardware Sales Reported

PM0802094993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by V. Povolotskiy: "Submarine in Ukrainian Steppes; Never Has There Been So Much Truth in Old Joke"]

[Text] With a license to trade in arms and documents indicating the final destination, authorization to import weapons into the country which is the final destination and a

first-category bank letter of guarantee of your solvency, you could become the happy owner of a combat support helicopter (just 2 million U.S. dollars) or hundreds of superannuated tanks with various modifications (their cost is $200,000-250,000). If you want keener sensations then buy two "KILO" submarines for 150,000 "greenbacks."

These and other commodities appeared on sale at the trading department of the Universal Ukrainian-Siberian Commodity Exchange (Kharkov). The location of the commodities was a commercial secret which is in fact entirely natural. Nonetheless there were evil tongues to speak of Russian "registration" for these goods.

In a telephone conversation Vladimir Panchenko, deputy director of the Universal Ukrainian-Siberian Exchange, confirmed that the weapons and ammunition are Russian and Belarusian, drawing my attention to the fact that the enterprise is "Ukrainian-Siberian," which is the same as "Ukrainian-Russian" (there are about 40 brokers' offices of the Universal Ukrainian-Siberian Exchange on Russian territory) and consequently there is nothing criminal in its actions. Vladimir Panchenko also announced that all formalities and subtleties of this commercial operation have been observed and the likelihood is minimal that these weapons will fall into "unreliable" hands. As an example of "reliable" hands Vladimir Fedorovich mentioned several Americans interested in purchasing these goods.

Local observers nonetheless expected the auction to be attended by guest representatives (or friends and known guest representatives) of various business circles from adjacent states, in particular Georgia, Abkhazia, Moldova, Chechnya, Tajikistan, and several others, where this equipment could be used for the purpose for which it was intended. There was a discussion of the possibility of the purchase of weapons by Ukrainian clients—the crime situation and indeed the sociopolitical situation in Ukraine now leaves room for improvement.

But the organizers stated that under the seller's terms the weapons cannot be sold to CIS countries.

Apart from the above-mentioned weapons the following were on show:

—one combat support helicopter—$7 million;

—14 YAK-28PP bombers—$13 million;

—27 MIG-27K heavy bombers—$16 million;

—about 1,500 relatively cheap guns costing from $10,000 for the most primitive ZU-37 produced in 1956 to $1.35 million for a self-propelling 203-mm gun;

—a mass of "peripheral equipment"—missiles, antiaircraft guns, howitzers, tanker trucks, and so forth.

All the military goods have been sold exclusively for freely convertible currency.

Rumors of the sale of military equipment, which with time have become reality, have generated a varied reaction in Ukrainian public circles and circles close to the state. For instance, Ivan Oleynik, Ukrainian deputy defense minister, has voiced doubts regarding the legality of this venture, citing the lack of interstate agreements on trading in and distributing weapons and ammunition. Especially as the addendum to the Ukrainian law on enterprise (article 4 part 1) reads: "Activity involving the manufacture and sale of narcotics, military weapons, and ammunition for them, and explosives can be conducted only by state enterprises."

From a service message from O. Musafirova, our special correspondent in Kiev:

"Boys, the auction of military equipment in Kharkov is the third auction at which Russian weapons have been on offer. They are sold through the mediation of a Ukrainian firm with which I am not familiar. The most modern weapons are on display for sale. Everything is in lots. I talked with Viktor Antonov, Ukrainian minister for the military-industrial complex and conversion. He categorically denies that his ministry is involved in this auction and he knows nothing at all about it. He says that he has not issued any sales licenses. Prime Minister L. Kuchma stated at a press conference that it is hard to believe in the sale of such a weapons consignment. Can someone explain what is happening in our country?"

Officers Condemn 'Provocations,' Support Government

AU0502153093 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 2 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Fact"]

[Text] A statement was adopted at the meeting of the plenum of Ukraine's Officers Union. The statement decisively condemns the political provocations by procommunist and chauvinist forces aimed at a deliberate destabilization of the situation in Ukraine that may lead to a fratricidal civil war and collapse of the Ukrainian state. Ukraine's Officers Union declared its full support for the activity of Ukraine's president, prime minister, and minister of defense.

Parliament Rejects Amending Criminal Code

OW0502213893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian parliamentarians rejected adjustments to the criminal code regarding the rights of those in custody proposed by Justice Minister Vasiliy Ostapko.

It was planned to give the defender the right to participate in the stage of questioning and preliminary investigation and to meet with the suspect before the first interrogation.

The minister noted that in particular due to the imperfection of court procedures legal proceedings are instituted against some 4,000 citizens annually. He noted that adjustments offered by his ministry would draw the criminal code in line with the world legal standards.

Most opponents to this proposal explained that in conditions of growing crime the humanization of the code would be improper.

Belarus

U.S. Official Says START I Ratification 'Good News'

WS0802135593 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Washington—The report from Belarus was called good news by the official representative of the U.S. State Department Richard Boucher. At the briefing held on 4 February at the State Department he stated: the Supreme Soviet of Belarus has ratified the treaty on strategic offensive arms and voted for joining the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear arms among nonnuclear states. The United States has greeted this phenomenon which is another step in the development of relations between the two countries. We are looking forward to cooperation with Belarus in the implementation of the START I treaty.

Foreign Minister Comments

WS0502160493 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1435 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka has assessed the unanimous decision of the legislature in ratifying a number of international agreements as an expression of Belarus' consistent course toward a nuclear-free and neutral status. The documents included the agreement on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons (START I) concluded on 31 June 1991 and the Lisbon Protocol signed on 25 May 1992. Belarus also decided to ratify the agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

"The results of voting showed that a vast majority of all factions supports this course," noted P. Kravchanka at a meeting with the heads of the diplomatic missions in Minsk. He said: "A sovereign state refused to possess nuclear weapons for the first time in international history. Belarus has the right to expect support from other states for its peaceful aspirations and the desire to contribute to the strengthening of European and world security."

The foreign minister expressed the hope that the world community, realizing Belarus' unprecedented move, will render practical assistance in implementing the ratified agreements. [Words indistinct] will be present on its territory for the time being. [Words indistinct] the functioning of a special communication line—a singular information "bridge" between Minsk and Washington, and also the installation of a special system for controlling the export of nuclear materials through the territory of Belarus.

P. Kravchanka placed emphasis on Belarus' logical and balanced approach toward disarmament and requested the diplomats to forward this information to the heads of their governments and to foreign ministers.

"We were extremely honest in fulfilling our obligation. We wished to persuade your countries that there are no reasons for doubting Belarus' honesty. Our Republic is expecting a similar approach from other countries," said the foreign minister in conclusion.

Russian Agreement To Accelerate Pullout

OW0502184893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 5 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Belarus and Russia have reached the preliminary agreement on "considerable acceleration of the withdrawal of the strategic nuclear forces from Belarus", Shushkevich's chief defence adviser and head of the parliamentary commission for national security, defence and crime prevention, Mechislav Grib, announced during a press conference on Thursday [4 February], commenting on the unanimous ratification of the package of documents ensuring the nuclear-free status of Belarus.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: During the closed meeting on Thursday, the parliament ratified the START-1 treaty and its protocol, as well as the 1968 treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the Russian-Belarusian treaty on the coordination of military activity and the Russian-Belarusian agreement on the strategic forces temporarily located in Belarus. The last two treaties were signed in August 1992.

Belarusian Defence Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy, who took part in the press conference, said that his ministry fully supported the first three documents. He said, however, that heated debates flared up in the Belarusian parliament over the Belarusian-Russian agreement on the strategic forces located in Belarus, because this agreement has to do with the Belarusian economic interests. He accepted criticism of his ministry and said that "he will not allow illegal imports of military property from Belarus. [no closing quotation marks as received] Ratification was so much needed because new Russian-Belarusian agreements, developing the previous ones, are being drafted already, he said. The drafts specify the schedule and procedure of removing the strategic forces from Belarus, and defines ways of compensating Belarus for the material damage inflicted on it.

Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka noted that "Belarus has confirmed its nuclear-free status voluntarily and in a civilized way". Speaking about the implementation of Russian-Belarusian agreements, he stated that Belarus would like to obtain hard currency from Western states that would allow it to ensure nuclear security during the withdrawal of the strategic forces. "We do not lay claims on control over the weapons located in our republic, but we must create a system that would guarantee the non-use of these forces," he said. In his opinion, the control system might be financed by the Western states concerned. He also pointed out that the strategic armaments must be withdrawn from Belarus before January

1, 2000. "This is the deadline," he said. "Our people and parliament wish to have the nuclear weapons removed earlier," he added.

IF Note: At the end of January Shushkevich told INTERFAX that it would be useless to lay claims on a share of the sum, allocated by the U.S. Congress to the elimination of the strategic weapons in the former Soviet Union within the START-1 treaty. This position is welcomed in the U.S. Congress, he said. He also added with reference to the results of Senators Lugar's and Nunn's visit to Belarus, that given the Belarusian approach to nuclear disarmament, the U.S. was ready to give technical aid to Belarus.

Shushkevich Expresses Doubts on Constitution

LD0502184093 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By correspondent Aleksey Zhuk from Minsk; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The seventh parliamentary session ended today in the capital of Belarus.

[Begin recording] [Zhuk] A set of economic and military issues were considered; the START I Treaty was ratified; and the Supreme Soviet rescinded its decision of 25 August 1991 on temporarily suspending the activities of the Communist Party of Belarus. During the discussion of a number of other matters, the deputies became bogged down in disputes. This applied to the draft laws on land, privatization vouchers, and the new constitution.

After long and heated discussion, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus adopted a resolution to the effect that under the draft new constitution, the Republic of Belarus will be headed by a president, who will also be the head of executive power.

[Zhuk, speaking to Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus] We are not mistaken in this, are we?

[Shushkevich] No, you are not mistaken. The resolution that was adopted specifies the procedure for work on the constitution. I can see that you are pleased. I would, however, like to say that all the difficulties regarding work on the constitution lie ahead of us, because our draft constitution has served as a prototype for other constitutions. It is now being transformed in such a way that I must say I do not feel particularly delighted. The point is that some times we adopt decisions in a fit of emotion. I think it possible that we will have to appeal to the people and, with respect to the decision of the Supreme Soviet, put a number of matters to a referendum, because I personally am not sure that we will manage to get a constitutional majority for this concept of the basic law. [end recording]

Constitution Postponed; Ministry Created

WS0802132193 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Today during the morning part of the tenth session of the Supreme Soviet, after the discussion of miscellaneous subjects, the deputies considered personnel issues. They first decided to introduce a change in the structure of the Council of Ministers and eliminated the Ministry of Transport. It was replaced by the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Stepan Shkapich, who had been the Belarusian Railroads manager, was appointed the minister. Today the session confirmed additional powers for the Council of Ministers in 1993 to find operational solutions for issues in some branches of industry . The discussion of two draft laws On Patents for Industrial Samples and On Trademarks took the deputies just a couple of minutes. Then there were debates on the draft of the Constitution, the Fundamental Law of Belarus. Deputies opinions differed on one basic issue: should Belarus remain parliamentary or should presidential rule be introduced. Our correspondent points out that unfortunately deputies lack the will to adopt the final decision. Factions continue to oppose one another, political considerations prevail over legal ones. While our newscast is being broadcast, the adoption of the draft resolution has been postponed.

Supreme Soviet Deputies Support Presidential Rule

LD0502182893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1707 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Minsk, 5 Feb (BELINFORM-TASS)—Today's vote in the Belarusian parliament has shown that most deputies are inclined to having presidential rule introduced in the republic. The president will become head of executive power; the Supreme Soviet will remain the highest representative body of state power. In current practice, it is not forbidden for parliamentarians to combine their membership in the Supreme Soviet with work in production or other forms of employment.

People's deputies have also made a decision with respect to their term of office: the Supreme Soviet will be elected for five years. The voting on these issues was carried out especially for the constitutional commission of the Supreme Soviet, which is chaired by Stanislav Shushkevich, as is the parliament itself. The fact is that this commission has been instructed to prepare a draft constitution of the Republic of Belarus for the next session. The results of today's vote will be reflected in that document.

Shushkevich Denies Rumors of Oil Deliveries to Serbia

WS0802140793 Minsk RID in Russian 1140 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] At a press conference, Belarusian Supreme Council Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich categorically denied the rumors that Belarus had something to do with oil deliveries to Yugoslavia in violation of the U.N.

embargo. "We prepared for such questions in Davos," stated Stanislav Shushkevich. "When journalists asked them, they had our reply. For some reason, the questions were heard, but the replies were not. Such an answer may have been uninteresting. I officially state one again that Belarus did not deliver oil to Serbia."

Deputy Prime Minister Comments on Economic Situation

LD0602210293 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 6 Feb 93

[By Aleksey Zhuk from Belarus; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Some animation in the republic's economy has not yet made it possible to make the conclusion that a noticeable growth in industrial production has begun, but it is obvious that its fall has been stopped. This proved possible because the republic managed to use economic levers on influencing the situation. The Belarusian Government received additional powers two years ago. It had the opportunity to influence more flexibly processes of economic management.

[Begin M.V. Myasnikovich, first deputy prime minister, recording] The Council of Ministers has received the right to influence economic activities of enterprises, particularly the production of goods for state needs. The Council of Ministers has also been given powers to form organization structures within the limits of the given allocations and to decide issues of appointing or sacking personnel, both top officials at republican level and economic managers. Thus we have a clear influence on the economy in the conditions of the transition to the market. [end recording]

Official Predicts Economic Dependence on Russia

WS0802141393 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1407 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Anatoliy Dremov, chief of the Economic Department at the Belarusian Council of Ministers, assessed the economic situation in the Republic:

"We are tied with Russia for years because we are fully dependent on its raw materials. Due to the fact that their prices grow faster than the prices of produced goods, our trade balance is unfavorable and it is constantly increasing."

In A. Dremov's opinion, the situation in Belarusian macroeconomics is an analogous reflection of the Russian one. "We have one advantage: following in the steps of the great Eastern neighbor, we have an opportunity to avoid its mistakes and take into account its experience," said the economist. "The skill of our government lies in its ability to draw timely conclusions from foreign experience. Last year has shown that there was no total collapse of productive forces. The government did everything possible to keep the economy going and is ready to do the same in the future."

A. Dremov stated that the key issue for both governments in the current year was the inner convertibility of the monetary units and a favorable trade balance.

Deputy Defense Minister on Creation of Small Arms

WS0802110393 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] According to Belarusian Deputy Defense Minister Aleksandr Tushinskiy, Belarusian military experts are working on the production of Belarusian small arms of the Israeli type assault rifle (Ween). This information is published by the SEM DNEY newspaper. This is what Deputy Defense Minister Aleksandr Tushinskiy told a SEM DNEY correspondent. Belarusian military high educational establishments will again be open for foreign students. A corresponding draft agreement between Belarus and India has already been prepared.

Defense Ministry Official on Sale of Military Property

WS0802121493 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 19 Jan 93 p 1

[Interview with Major General Mikhail Mikalayevich Gets, chief of the Commercial Department of the Belarusian Ministry of Defense, by ZVYAZDA correspondent Alyaxandr Koktysh under the "Specially for ZVYAZDA" rubric: "'We Are Not Selling Submarines, But We Can Sell Pontoon Bridges.' Major General Mikhail Gets, chief of the Commercial Department of the Belarusian Ministry of Defense, Responds to ZVYAZDA Correspondent's Questions;" place and date not given]

[Text] [Koktysh] Mikhail Mikalaevich, is the Army occupied with commerce?

[Gets] I would put it in other words: the contemporary Army no longer has an offensive doctrine and is not so big. It has changed. Our department helps the Army to change. That is why we try to get rid of the old military equipment. For example, recently, we sold a consignment of tractors (dated 1959) used for the transportation of tanks. We are selling "ZIL-131", "ZIL-157" [a heavy cargo truck] which had served for 15-20 years.

[Koktysh] The Army is engaging in commerce. Is this the new Army's face?

[Gets] Obviously not. We are leasing military property, creating joint ventures. We have already created one joint venture near Shchuchin. The dismissed pilots are engaged in the production of additives. You see, everyone is satisfied: the Army, the dismissed pilots, the Republic, which gets the indispensable production. The First Section of the Commercial Department is engaged in the preparation of cantonments for sale. There is a

whole system of measures. We must set the price, solve the housing problems of the families who are currently living in those cantonments, and do many other things. Our department is also dealing with conversion. For example, we do not need some equipment, like filters for cleaning the air contaminated by radioactive fallout. That is why we are selling some of their valuable parts. We are also selling reconstructed military vehicles to different countries of the CIS. The Section for Secondary Resources is engaged in selling ferrous and nonferrous metals. We are also dealing with precious metals.

[Koktysh] Maybe you are planning to build your own factory?

[Gets] It is too expensive and not profitable. We have already had one experience in organizing a factory but we did not manage to bargain with the Russian party. To tell you the truth, this issue is under way at the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers.

[Koktysh] To whom do you sell your equipment?

[Gets] Ninety-five percent of the sold equipment remains on the territory of Belarus, but we are also dealing with Russia, Ukraine, and Baltic states.

[Koktysh] What about the western countries?

[Gets] We have certain proposals, but it is too early to speak about something definite. We can earn hard currency on the domestic market. For example, we have sold a secondhand telephone cable to a Belarusian company for hard currency. Bulgaria is interested in pontoon bridges which we no longer need.

[Koktysh] You have been functioning since June 1992. How much have you earned?

[Gets] About one-half billion rubles [R]. But lately, we have increased our efforts in this direction. More and more companies want to invest in real estate.

[Koktysh] What is the price of real estate?

[Gets] A truck for the transportation of tanks costs about R1 million, a cantonment—about R0.5 billion. But it depends. For example, nobody wants to buy a cantonment near Bychov. The increased radioactive environment, contaminated area, lack of roads—it was a Navy base—are the reasons.

[Koktysh] One newspaper wrote that you are selling submarines....

[Gets] Are you kidding? We have no submarines in Belarus. The information is false. We are not selling submarines, but we can sell pontoon bridges. In general, in order to put an end to all the rumors, I want to declare that we do not sell military equipment and arms. In effect, we cannot sell a cantonment independently. This is the domain of the Cabinet of Ministers. By the way, a special commission headed by Sergey Ling, deputy chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, was created.

[Koktysh] Does the Cabinet of Ministers dispense the earned money?

[Gets] No. Seventy percent is given to the Defense Ministry, 25 percent—to the departments and sections that arranged the deal, five percent are left for us. But our allowances remain the same. Our department is financed from the state budget— 0.2 percent from the 25 percent sum is allocated for the motivation of the staff who prepared the military property and equipment for sale. The Defense Ministry allocates its part for solving social problems, building of houses, etc.

[Koktysh] Is it true that your prices are lower than the exchange's prices?

[Gets] We sell the main part of the equipment at market prices. But some types of military equipment are morally and technically outdated and we are forced to sell this military property at lower prices. And I do not agree with the people who demand that we grant the military property free. Servicemen should also earn money to solve their social problems.

Legislative Official on Military Laws, Elections

WS0802105893 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian No 8, 19 Jan 93 p 1

[Interview with Colonel Leonid Petrovich Privalov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council Committee for Defense, National Security, and Crime Prevention, by VO SLAVU RODINY editor in chief V.G. Sokolovskiy under the "Pressing Interview" rubric: "Leonid Privalov: 'Common Sense Prevailed Over Emotions...'"; place and date not given]

[Text] [Sokolovskiy] Leonid Petrovich, the Supreme Council session has crossed its equator, to put it vividly. How would you assess the ground covered? To what extent did it meet your political and human expectations?

[Privalov] We can speak about crossing the equator only from the point of view of time. Each law is a singular equator in solving a certain urgent problem. The ground covered in lawmaking is only a prelude to crossing the equator toward the implementation of Belarusian laws. My expectations were justified in so much as I became assured that the session was not a waste of time, but real work for the future of the Republic.

[Sokolovskiy] What do you remember best of all?

[Privalov] I remember the prevalence of common sense over emotions and political ambitions at most debates. For the first time, the session overcame the euphoria of national ambitions that gave way to sound practicality. In other words, most of the deputies came to realize that slogans and entreaties were not real life. Most of the adopted laws and decisions are based on reality. This also applies to the Supreme Council decision to repeal the referendum. The opposition has raised this issue not for the people's sake but to promote its own political

reputation against the Belarusian political and social background. I am convinced that the opposition would not be interested in the results of such a referendum but in the very fact of a massive and destabilizing campaign. It would prefer something instead of strikes, rallies, and other actions. The opposition's statements that the Supreme Council is unlawful and unable to work is exclusively its own opinion corresponding to its political aspirations. The Supreme Council is a replica of our society and reflects the interests of the majority. The issue of improving the political organization and functioning of the legislature is a different one.

[Sokolovskiy] Has your personal opinion always coincided with the views of the majority?

[Privalov] Not always. For example, on the law on national minorities. I do not clearly understand its purpose and mechanism of functioning. Since the law has been adopted, it must be obeyed. I do not exclude the possibility that in the future, my opinion on certain laws may differ from other deputies' views.

[Sokolovskiy] The package of "military" laws adopted by the legislature was a special item on the agenda. I would like you to dwell on it in greater detail.

[Privalov] This package of "military" laws has a special meaning for me due to the fact that I worked on it a great deal. These laws constitute a significant framework for building the Armed Forces. The military doctrine and the laws formed a legal basis for the attitudes toward the military policy and a number of domestic and international problems. The adopted doctrine and laws, and the military oath make up a legal foundation for the military service and the civil and social self-determination of servicemen. They are also a legal interpretation of all Belarusian military policy. The most significant thing now is to let them come into force. This must be the key task of our committee. It is more complicated than lawmaking.

[Sokolovskiy] What did deputies representing different groups, associations, and tendencies propose during the debates?

[Privalov] I had the impression that all deputies agreed on the significance and necessity of the "military" laws. Personal opinions concerning certain issues were not directed against their essence. I see this as a guarantee for their successful implementation.

[Sokolovskiy] We are having our conversation just before the Supreme Council resumes its work after a short break. What are you and the Committee for Defense, National Security, and Crime Prevention busy with?

[Privalov] First of all, the committee is concerned with a thorough analysis of the results and the implementation of the new laws. It is important to make these laws accessible to the people. We receive a great number of written and oral requests on how to interpret and implement them. This is a continuous process. The committee will have more than enough work at the coming session.

[Sokolovskiy] Leonid Petrovich, the legislature is often reproached for having several former leaders of the nomenclature. Do you believe that they can change their work style and be of benefit to the common cause?

[Privalov] The style of work is not the result. There are as many styles as people. The style and effectiveness of work do not depend on political labels and affiliation. If we follow this course, our legislature will have a peculiar coloring. If a style of work brings positive results, why should one change it? Only because one is a former party functionary? This is absurd.

[Sokolovskiy] And the last question. A little more than a year remains until the upcoming elections. What are the prospects for the activities of the Belarusian Supreme Council?

[Privalov] These prospects depend more on the present than on the past. To fill the building with new people? If this can determine people's welfare, I am voting with both hands to do this already tomorrow. Should we cherish the illusion that elections are a panacea for all our ills? I suppose that we should place the work of the current legislature and not political speculations at the fore on our way to the elections. Elections will be held, and the new legislature will answer your question better.

[Sokolovskiy] Thank you for the interview.

Moldova

Speaker Flies to Moscow for Yeltsin-Snegur Talks

OW0502203593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Issues concerning the withdrawal of the Russian 14th Army from Moldova and a peace settlement in Trans-Dniesteria will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting between presidents Yeltsin and Snegur besides economic and political matters. Petru Lucinschi, the Moldovan parliamentary speaker., informed INTERFAX of the above in an exclusive interview on during his flight from Chisinau to Moscow Friday [5 February].

Lucinschi stressed that the Moldovan leadership was currently prepared to make serious concessions in determining the status of regions on the left bank of the Dniester. "The Trans-Dniesterian leaders should also abandon their fixed ideas for a more flexible approach and compromise and no longer insist on the formation of an independent state," he said.

Transdniester Dissatisfied With Russian Consultations

OW0502204293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Trans-Dniesterian leadership has expressed its dissatisfaction with the outcome of the meetings which took place between Moldovan and Russian military representatives from February 2-3 in Chisinau. The above was contained in an statement issued by the press center of the president of the unofficial Trans-Dniesterian Moldovan Republic (TMR) Friday [5 February]. Tiraspol was of the opinion that the staging of talks and the achievement of any kind of agreements behind the back of Trans-Dniesteria, the interests of which are at stake, is inadmissable." [no opening quotation marks as received]

The president's press center rejected several media reports about the content of the talks between Colonel General Eduard Vorobyev, the head of the Russian delegation, and the Trans-Dniesterian leadership. It expressed regret over the fact that the Russians had "not considered it necessary to release information regarding the content of the talks" to Tiraspol.

The talks, which began Tuesday, centered around the status of the Russian 14th Army and the timing of its withdrawal from Moldova. Vorobyev said that the two sides understood each other on the majority of issues. He also hoped that all controversy surrounding the timing of the withdrawal of the troops would be resolved during the course of the meeting between presidents Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur in Moscow February 9.

Lucinschi Sees Shift to 'New Period of Cooperation'

AU0502202993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1810 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES 5/2/1993—The election of the president of Moldova's Parliament has resolved the legislative crisis of Moldova, marking a shift to a new period of cooperation, to identify ways to meet the deputies' demands, opined Petru Lucinschi, the new president of Moldova's Parliament in an interview with MOLDOVA PRES.

Asked to tell his opinion on the separation of the powers in the state under the conditions when the republic's prosecutor is a deputy and so are ministers and heads of departments, Petru Lucinschi said that these were social issues needing to be analysed and clarified. As for the situation in Parliament, he specified that there was a majority able, in his opinion, to solve all the economic, cultural, health problems left unsolved so far, those concerning the Dniester region included.

Referring to the development of Chisinau's relations with Bucharest, Petru Lucinschi said the economic ones had to expand. "Some people are too much concerned with politics, while, life, fate asks us to get close, to live like brothers," specified Petru Lucinschi.

Officials Cited on Relations Between Snegur, Lucinschi

OW0502220693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1822 GMT 5 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX [IF] has learned from reliable sources that a closed-door meeting took place on Friday [5 February] between Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and newly-elected Parliament Chairman Petru Lucinschi.

Lucinschi was elected on Thursday with the support of 213 of 243 parliament deputies present at the session.

IF Note: Lucinschi, 52, is a graduate of Chisinau University. He has been First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Moldovan Komsomol, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Moldovan Communist Party, and Second Secretary of the Central Committee of the Tajik Communist Party. In 1990-91 he was the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Moldovan Communist Party and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (before the August putsch). In 1990, Snegur and Lucinschi ran for the republic's parliament chairmanship, which Snegur won with a small parliamentary majority. In 1992, Lucinschi was named Moldovan ambassador to Russia, a post which he has held up to now. He is married and has two sons.

In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX after his election, Lucinschi said that "the current crisis in parliament was caused by temporary difficulties which have been completely resolved." The Supreme Council, in his opinion, has not exhausted its possibilities, and can still be of use to the people.

The speaker said that first among his goals were the settlement of the Trans-Dniester conflict and the adoption of a new constitution. "This is fully within the province of the Supreme Council," he opined. Thereupon, said Lucinschi, "it would make sense to attend to systematic legislative activity such as passing a budget and adopting various laws which will allow us to get out of our economic crisis."

Lucinschi also said that he would strive for improved relations with Russia and the stepping up of economic relations within the framework of the CIS.

In a conversation with local journalists, former speaker Alexandru Mosanu said that "with Lucinschi's rise to power, Snegur can pack his political bags." He believes that "Lucinschi's election to the post of parliament chairman" means "a new headache for Snegur."

Petru Lucinschi's return as parliament speaker, claimed the former speaker, is only the first step of his accession to the summit of power in Moldova. He also expressed

his conviction that the new parliament head would "yet avenge himself upon Mircea Snegur for his defeat in the May 1990 elections for the parliament chairmanship. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Mosanu further said that Lucinschi's election did not come as a surprise to him. "The new head of parliament is a born politician, both in intelligence and cleverness. One should recognize, however, that he has one shortcoming—he, like President Snegur, is a servant of Moscow."

An INTERFAX correspondent asked for commentary on Lucinschi's election from representatives of the self-proclaimed republics of Trans-Dniester and Gagauzia.

Ivan Mutkoglo, the head of the secretariat of the Supreme Council of Gagauzia found it difficult to give a definitive evaluation of the new speaker, but stressed that "Lucinschi is a born politician." He also expressed hope that the parliament head would "aid in the fastest possible settlement of the conflict in Gagauzia" without using force.

Valeriy Litskay, the state secretary of Trans-Dniesterian Moldovan Republic, calls Lucinschi "a politician who is not simply smart, but also clever." "It is difficult," he added, "to predict what he will do, including with respect to the resolution of the transdniesterian problem." At the same time, though, Litskay believes that with Lucinschi's election, Tiraspol received one undoubted advantage with Chisinau: "It will now be difficult to accuse us of procommunist leanings. If we have two bronze Lenins in Tiraspol, in Chisinau they have three real Lenins in power—Snegur, Lucinschi, and Sangeli."

Hadirca Discusses Trend Toward CIS System

AU0802084393 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 2 Feb 93 p 3

[Interview with Ion Hadirca, first vice president of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, by Corneliu Vlad, in Chisinau on 29 January: "After Us, President Snegur Will Also Be in a Difficult Situation"]

[Text] A few hours before the announcement of the dramatic decision by the four "pillars of Parliament" in Chisinau, Mr. Ion Hadirca, first vice president of the legislative forum explained the reasons for this imminent decision.

[Hadirca] I am concerned about what has been happening lately, especially in parliament. I witnessed the most recent developments, but often I assume the role of guarantor of stability and barrage against torrents of troubled water. I deem it my duty to stop these malevolent forces as long as I am able to do so.

[Vlad] President Snegur's recent statement turned into a bone of contention in your society. Do you believe that the idea of a referendum, which was launched on that occasion, has domestic reasons or is it linked to the CIS meeting in Minsk?

[Hadirca] First, I believe that, before making this statement, President Snegur did not weigh all possible consequences. As I see it, this is a shortcoming of the presidential apparatus, which often cultivates quite ineffective presidential attitudes of this type. The latest events prove an almost desperate situation. One can note a genuine lack of information and a sort of hiatus between this state institution and other public institutions, parties, tendencies, and situations prevailing in our society.

[Vlad] Is the idea of the referendum a new one?

[Hadirca] By no means. It was prepared some time ago by a group of 159 deputies, who demanded approximately the same thing and who launched an attack against President of the Parliament Alexandru Mosanu.

[Vlad] And against you.

[Hadirca] Obviously, but this is not what I would like to discuss. The trend toward the CIS system, especially in the last months of 1992, is clear-cut. Ever more obvious and insurmountable differences have also arisen between the president of the parliament Mr. Mosanu, and the president of the republic, Mr. Snegur. However, this is not enough to give rise to polemics of such proportions in our society. Such things are usually discussed at the negotiating table through consultations with moratoriums, and compromises in the positive sense of the word. Often we even succeeded in doing so.

[Vlad] How has the parliament's activity proceeded of late?

[Hadirca] As parliament vice president and president of the commission for working out the privatization program I can say that we have focused our attention on a set of laws meant to establish the 1993 budget, the government program, and privatization, that is the key problems. Thus the parliament was prepared for efficient activity and out of the blue came this absolutely ill-timed and inexplicable statement by the president.

[Vlad] Actually, not so inexplicable....

[Hadirca] Of course. Especially since the current composition of the supreme legislative forum bothers many people. Thus, the first stroke was against the parliament engaging it in discussions that actually compromised its activity. Consequently, primaries were proposed. However, now one cannot speak of genuine elections given the lack of an advanced privatization program, of a social category to participate in this process, and the lack of effective parties and independent mass media.

[Vlad] Especially since they cannot take place on the left bank of the Dniester river as well.

[Hadirca] Obviously. We do not question people's election rights and this has been emphasized through the

endorsement of the law on the referendum. However, we want to link this right to the concrete situation. The aforesaid law stipulates that a referendum cannot be held while certain areas are occupied and while there is an occupying army on the territory of the republic. Both the 14th Army and the peace-keeping troops belong to Russia. Thus there is an area in which we have to defend ourselves with arms. Unfortunately, this area has not been prepared for democratic processes.

[Vlad] Why do some of the deputies plead for a referendum?

[Hadirca] Because it would certify the non-union with Romania, curb numerous statements by certain parties and leaders in this regard, and maintain Russia's influence in the former economic zone by various means—the ruble area, information area, transportation and many other means. Even through the Army. The referendum would open ways and means to re-enter CIS and the president would have a free hand to fulfill the promises made earlier, I do not know within what framework. I do not know generally speaking, but I suspect—I am not sure—that this is not accidental.

[Vlad] Can the parliament not be dissolved?

[Hadirca] What the law permits is that, upon the initiative of one-third of the parliament members, an extraordinary meeting be convened to discuss operational issues and thus new elections. In practice, however, it seems that the necessary number of votes could not be achieved, at least for the time being. Even in the past few days I noted signs of hesitation among the parliamentarians. Even physical pressure was put on some of the deputies who tried to avoid casting their vote. They almost carried one of them, while another one was threatened physically. Still others were blackmailed.

[Vlad] And after this failure, they were again asking for your head.

[Hadirca] Things are clear-cut. At this point they want us to be completely isolated, humiliated, and cut off from our social status, our authority, and from the possibility of stopping these deplorable processes.

[Vlad] And what will you do?

[Hadirca] I think that we can no longer tolerate this situation. We do not want to sink in the same quagmire of those who have brought about this situation nor can we share the irresponsible attitude of the one who brought about the cause of contention and now just looks on, enjoying what is happening.

[Vlad] Actually, a presidential crisis has turned into a parliamentary one.

[Hadirca] I absolutely agree with you and we want to draw attention to our precarious situation. We are indeed a minority; we are blocked in numerous situations. We have to untie our hands and turn into a clear and rational opposition so as to have the possibility to speak openly about everything that is happening here. And we have to prepare the population. Finally, I want to say that, after ourselves, President Snegur will also face a difficult situation. However, we will not be the ones to push him into such a situation.

Rally Condemns Pro-Moscow Policy, Opposes Referendum

AU0702172293 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1654 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES 7/2/1993—The Christian Democratic People's Front [FPCD] of Moldova held an authorised rally in Chisinau, capital of the Republic of Moldova, where the most ardent issues for the Moldovan society were approached.

The speakers condemned the theses set forth by President Mircea Snegur in his declaration of 24 December 1992, which they labelled as "Romanophobic from its very roots," as well as the pro-Moscow policy promoted at present by the leaders in Chisinau. The crowd pronounced vehemently against any referendum which they see as apt to lead to disunion among the autochthonous population and to estrangement from the mother country, and therefore untimely.

The almost 5,000 participants chanted antipresidential and antigovernment slogans.

Survey Shows 7.7 Percent Favor Unification With Romania

LD0602141293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1331 GMT 6 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau February 6 TASS—Only 7.7 per cent of respondents in a national republican representative sampling favoured Moldova's unification with Romania, 37.8 per cent favoured an absolutely independent and sovereign state and 36.4 per cent—a sovereign and independent state of Moldova within the CIS, the Independent Sociological Information Service Opinia reports.

Commenting on the findings, the newspaper KISHINEVSKIE NOVOSTI wrote on Saturday that the idea of the Moldovan Popular Front, which presses for Moldova's unification with Romania, has suffered a fiasco.

The data of the sociological survey indicate that 80.95 per cent of respondents view the termination of the bloodshed in the Dniester region as a triumph of human reason. At the same time 62.2 per cent of people asked do not approve of the activities of the present parliament of the republic.

Kazakhstan

President Nazarbayev Interviewed on Europe Trip

PM0502165993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Feb 93 pp 1, 3

[Interview with President N. Nazarbayev by correspondent Igor Melnikov in Vienna on 4 February: "Let Us Be Realists"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] The Austrian capital was the last stop on Kazakhstan President N. Nazarbayev's European tour. "Hot" problems concerning economic collaboration with the West were discussed in the Swiss city of Davos. Military-political subject matter predominated in Brussels, where meetings, in particular with leaders of NATO headquarters, took place.

As regards the talks in Vienna, they were a continuation of the Kazakhstan leader's and Austrian federal chancellor's painstaking work on improving the model for cooperation between such dissimilar states.

At the request of PRAVDA's Vienna correspondent, Nazarbayev answered a number of questions about the tour's results.

[Melnikov] A year ago in Vienna you gave an interview to PRAVDA. At that time a document unprecedented in Austrian foreign economic practice was signed: Kazakhstan became the first state for which an upper credit limit for all rigorously justified projects was removed. And now the new round of your talks with Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. What was their result?

[Nazarbayev] The talks were very successful. The Austrian credit policy is starting to work, all obstacles have been removed, and 34 major contracts will be signed in the next few days. New contracts are also in the offing: Evidence of this is the meeting with local entrepreneurs that has just taken place in the Federal Chamber of Economics. What did the dialogue demonstrate? Our Austrian partners still know little of Kazakhstan's potential. We really must create all the conditions so that businessmen are not disappointed. A legislative basis for this already exists in Kazakhstan, but our government still has some work to do.

In other words, it is necessary to be responsible. A year ago, after returning from Vienna, we announced a projects competition. Some 860 proposals were received, 34 of which were selected. Enterprises will receive credits which they will later pay off themselves.

[Melnikov] Last week you participated in the World Economic Forum in Davos. There, in the city park, guests' attention is drawn to a granite slab inscribed: Sir Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, set out from here in 1894 on a ski run across the Furka Pass. So, now it would not be a bad idea to invite the legendary detective to Davos so that he could help to "detect" the billions of dollars the West promised to the CIS countries...

[Nazarbayev] Back in Gorbachev's time there was euphoria over the fact that America and the G-7 as a whole would fork out $24 billion to us. I invariably said to Yeltsin and the rest of our presidents: Guys, we must work for ourselves, nobody is going to give a single cent for nothing! Incidentally, the Baltic region thought that it would only have to "slip away" from the Soviet Union and convoys of aid would be immediately dispatched to it. Nothing of the sort happened. Was it not Brazauskas who the other day acknowledged the catastrophic state of the Lithuanian economy?

We should therefore not count on Davos showering us with manna from heaven. Every one of these forums is useful in that it provides an opportunity for direct contacts with the heads of many states and governments and businessmen.

[Melnikov] In conclusion tell us about the Brussels part of your itinerary.

[Nazarbayev] I had a long-standing invitation to NATO headquarters. My speech took place there in the presence of all 16 ambassadors of the North Atlantic alliance's member-states. Including answers to questions, it lasted three and a half hours. The conversation was frank. This is what I asked: Do you need ruins in place of the former Soviet Union? Do you want to ruin Russia itself and do you think that you will be able to sit calmly in your own homes? No, they replied. But why, I went on, are you encouraging every CIS country to hold talks with everyone under the sun, instead of encouraging them to unite? And we are well aware of the West's ability to influence such a course of events... In short, I talked turkey to my NATO interlocutors about all this.

There was also my speech at the EC Commission, and talks were held with Delors. As a result we are signing a very interesting document on cooperation between the EC Commission and Kazakhstan. We agreed on the training of our specialists and on holding practical training activities for economists and financiers. [Nazarbayev ends]

Nazarbayev's book "Without the Right or the Left" [Bez pravykh i levykh], published in English by a London publishing house, was launched in Vienna yesterday.

Kazakh Officials Attend Seminar on U.S. Government

LD0702160093 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0700 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Today in Alma-Ata at the interrepublican institute of advanced training of specialists attached to the Cabinet of Ministers, the seminar started its work on the program: Public Administration Program of the United States. The program is called upon to acquaint

various Kazakh officials with the U.S. Administration. International corps of executive service takes part in the organization of training on the American part. The seminar is held under the auspices of and with direct involvement of the president apparatus and Cabinet of Ministers. [passage omitted]

They will deliver lectures on the problem of functioning of the political institutions of the United States on the government activities, elections, effective use of finance and other urgent topical issues. The seminar will last until 12 February. On its completion participants of the program will be able to get acquainted with the work of local administration bodies in detail and more people with the highest U.S. Administration bodies. All expenses on probation period will be covered by the American party.

Oil Cooperation Package Signed With Iran

MK0602110293 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 5 Feb 93 p 10

[Valeriya Sycheva article: "Kazakhstan To Continue Cooperation With Iran in Oil Production"]

[Text] An Iranian governmental delegation led by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati returned to Tehran today from Alma-Ata, ending a one-week trip to the Central Asian republics (see KOMMERSANT-DAILY of 3 February). A KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent reports that Velayati's planned visit to Kyrgyzstan was canceled in protest against Askar Akayev's intention to open an embassy in Jerusalem.

In the Kazakhstan capital, Velayati held talks with Vice Premier Erik Asanbayev, Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko, and Economy Minister Bisenbay Izteleulov. A tentatively scheduled meeting with President Nursultan Nazarbayev did not take place due to the latter's absence on a visit to Europe. The Iranian delegation also visited the Kazakhstan Academy of Sciences. As a result of the visit, bilateral agreements on economic cooperation in oil production, transportation, trade, and interbank activity were signed.

Observers point out that as a result of the negotiations, Iran has retained the role of Kazakhstan's priority partner in oil extraction and refining. The plans outlined last August during preliminary talks between Kazyr Baykenov, Kazakh fuel and energy minister, and Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazade, were reaffirmed. These plans provide for Iran's construction and modernization of oil refineries in Kazakhstan, and the extension of the Kazakhstan-Azerbaijan oil pipeline via Baku to Tabriz to export Kazakh oil through ports in the Persian Gulf. Both sides are planning to start transporting crude oil from Kazakhstan to Iran via the Caspian Sea for subsequent purification and export, and to cooperate in drilling and exploiting Kazakhstan oil fields.

Meanwhile the prospect of playing the role—which is very enticing to Iran—of a virtually exclusive "oil partner" and intermediary, backed up by the idea of Islamic unity, could be jeopardized by Kazakhstan's growing aspiration for independence in its oil policy, which is reinforced by its accession to OPEC as an observer. The fact that Kazakhstan intends not to confine itself to a one-sided orientation toward Iran is also corroborated by the agreements reached in early January with the U.S. company Chevron on exploiting the Tengiz and Korolevskiy oil and gas deposits near the Caspian Sea, and by the negotiations on exploiting a number of the republic's deposits with the British Gas Company and the French company Elf-Aquitaine.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Accepts Economics Minister's Resignation

OW0502220793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1822 GMT 5 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev has signed a decree relieving Amangeldy Muraliyev from his duties as Economics and Finance Minister. Prior to this, the minister voluntarily tendered his resignation.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Speaking before a meeting in the ministry in mid-January, Akayev said that the schedule for the development of the economic situation for 1993 prepared by its experts "completely failed to justify itself", and that those who signed it "should resign."

Presidential Economic Advisor Rafkat Khasanov told INTERFAX that the package of emergency measures ordered to the ministry by the president and the prime minister had been rejected. The republic's leadership described as unacceptable some proposals by the Economics Ministry, particularly those restricting free pricing and state control of goods resources. Khasanov said these measures ran counter to economic reform and were intended to curb private business.

Supreme Soviet Fields Proposals for Constitutional Change

LD0502153593 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0000 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Over 200 letters and statements within the nationwide discussion of the draft new constitution of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan have arrived at the working commission of the Supreme Soviet. The majority of the proposals concern the issue of the state and Russian languages, the reference in the preamble of the draft to the national rebirth of the Kyrgyz people, the moral values of Islam and other religions, and also the position of the president in the system of state power.

The flow of observations and wishes of working people sent to the working commission was noticeably stepped up following the organized discussion of the document at workforces of enterprises and institutions. The analysis of the incoming post is being dealt with by the administration and legal experts. A summary of the material will be presented for examination by the spring session of the Supreme Soviet.

Prime Minister Schedules 8-18 Feb Western Europe Tour

OW0602203793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister, Tursunbek Chingyshev, will make a 10-day tour of Western Europe from 8 to 18 February to make new political and economic contacts there. A government spokesman said Chingyshev will address the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 10 February, and will have a meeting in the European Commission.

The Prime Minister will also meet British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in London on 15 February, as well as the president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and leading European businessmen.

Agreement Signed With Lithuania on Economic Cooperation

LD0402205393 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Today, in Bishkek, the ministers of trade of Lithuania and Kyrgyzstan signed an agreement on trade and economic cooperation this year and on [words indistinct]. Andrey Iordan, Kyrgyzstan's minister of trade and material resources, stated that these agreements must help to restore economic ties between both states. He stressed that the agreements provide for the creation of joint enterprises and this, according to the minister, will make it possible to integrate the economy of the states.

The Lithuanian-Kyrgyzstan free trade agreement provides for the possibility of cooperating with all structures of both states, irrespective of their form of ownership. The agreement ensures the mutual security of the ownership of Lithuania and Kyrgyzstan. The sides agreed not to limit export and import and not to impose taxes on imported goods.

Tajikistan

Further on Visit by Russian Defense Minister

Rakhmonov, Grachev Visit Khatlon

LD0602142893 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 0400 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Tajikistan Supreme Soviet Chairman Imamali Rakhmonov and Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev visited Khatlon Oblast yesterday. They visited the military units of the 201st Russian Division in Kurgan-Tyube city and Kulyab, and had talks with Sangak Safarov, chairman of the National Front of Tajikistan, and the leaders of Khatlon Oblast. They then visited [name indistinct], Moscovskiy, and [name indistinct] Rayons, where they familiarized themselves with the social condition of the residents, visited the hospitals, and talked with the doctors and the patients.

Grachev, Kalimov on Russian Troops

LD0602204993 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Feb 93

[By correspondent Mikhail Svetlichniy; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The recent visit of Defense Minister Grachev to Tajikistan made it clear that Russia has no intention of renouncing its vital interests in the region, and moreover, has not forgotten its obligations under the Tashkent collective security treaty. As Pavel Grachev said, work on the treaty has so far been rather theoretical. There were three main points on the Dushanbe agenda: the status of the 201st Russian Division, joint use and strengthening of the air defense systems and assistance in developing the armed forces of sovereign Tajikistan.

[Begin recording] [Svetlichniy] How long will the Russian troops remain in Tajikistan?

[Tajik Foreign Minister R. Kalimov] Not after 1999. In that time we think we'll be able to create our own armed forces which will stand up to an external enemy. [end recording]

[Svetlichniy] Some of the armaments and military equipment will become the property of Tajikistan under the quotas as a republic of the former Union. Well, and additional deliveries of arms will be at world prices. But what if the fragile stability in the republic is upset? There is increasingly loud talk of a forthcoming spring offensive by the forces of the opposition. What will the Russian military do?

[Begin Grachev recording] In the event of the president adopting, and the Supreme Sovet approving, concrete assistance, they could take part in defending the national interests of Tajikistan, I say again, in the framework of the collective security treaty which we have signed. [end recording]

Infantry Division at Republic's Disposal

LD0802133093 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] With the aim of strengthening Tajikistan's borders, the Russian Government has decided to place the 201st Infantry Division at Tajikistan's disposal. The division will be made up mainly of Tajik youths [word indistinct].

Shooting Reportedly Resumes Along Afghan Border

OW0802124493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1154 GMT 08 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On the evening of 7 February, a group of border guards from the Panj detachment was fired upon by a group of people who were attempting to cross into Tajikistan from Afghanistan. Return fire drove the trespassers back across the border.

INTERFAX was told at the press center of the Russian border forces that there were no casualties among the guards.

Russian Troops Involved in Clash on Southern Border

LD0502230893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 5 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] There was another exchange of fire on the Tajik-Afghan border today. The Panj border detachment had to use automatic weapons fire to prevent another attempt by a group of Tajiks to penetrate into the territory of Afghanistan. One border guard was injured.

[Correspondent A. Samoletov] These pretty fierce exchanges of fire were preceded by an attempt to resolve everything by peaceful means. An opposition grouping numbering about 150 men who a few days ago carried out the killing of a government troop commander were given an ultimatum, namely to give up their weapons voluntarily and surrender. After lengthy negotiations over militia walkie-talkies, a location for the handover was set, and the matter of handing the body of the dead man to his relatives settled. However, as it entered the Ramit Gorge, an armored fighting vehicle of the Tajikistan Interior Ministry troops found itself under fire, despite the white flag tied to the antenna. Russian Federation [RF] sappers were the next to come under the snipers' bullets, then it was the turn of the RF tanks which had come to the negotiation location to monitor observance of the terms which had been agreed by both sides, and to give cover if necessary. The senselessness of casualties, exchanges of fire embittering the warring sides and bringing nothing but destruction and laying low the country already impoverished by war—all this could bring Tajikistan today into an impasse from which a way out is unlikely to be found.

National Front Says Group Shooting Looters on Sight

LD0602141093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The National Front of Tajikistan is shooting on sight any looters and marauders acting under cover of progovernment groups. This was announced at a press conference in Kurgan-Tyube by Sangak Safarov, leader of this armed group. He did not specify how many have been shot, saying simply that there had been many such instances.

In Safarov's words, up to 100 opposition fighters continue to resist in the Ramit Gorge, with 200 more in the region of Komsomolabad, to the east of Dushanbe. National Front leader Safarov affirms that not only Afghan mojahedin are fighting for the opposition, but mercenaries from the Baltic and Georgia and Muslim foreign students are fighting as well.

Security Official Briefs Correspondents on Situation

LD0602103793 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0400 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] A news conference was held in Dushanbe with Zukhurov, chairman of the State Committee for National Security, and (Belanov), first deputy minister for internal affairs, for a group of foreign journalists accredited to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs who have come to Tajikistan at the invitation of the leaders of the country.

Opening the news conference Zukhurov expressed the hope that the answers given at the news conference will help the correspondents to understand the real state of affairs in Tajikistan and objectively assess the events taking place here. The foreign journalists had many questions. They were interested in the situation on the borders and where the leaders of the antigovernment formations were residing. They also wanted an answer to the question on the possibility of attacks by the opposition against the current legal government of Tajikistan.

All the leaders of the law and order bodies of the republic provided accurate and well argumented answers to all the questions. They shed light on the unseemingly roles of the leaders of the opposition in the events of the recent months. The journalists were shown the appeal of Shodmon Yusup, leader of the so-called Democratic Party of Tajikistan to all the headquarters of the opposition forces in which he talks of the neccessity of taking-up arms again.

In this connection Zukhurov and (Belanov) emphasized that the legal powers of the republic have enough strength to rebuff the armed provocations from the side of the antigovernment forces. The foreign journalists were shown a documentary film about the atrocities committed by the opposition on the territory of Khatlon Oblast.

Combat Operations Limiting Supplies to 700,000 People

OW0702170793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov said that measures to ensure the survival of about 700,000

mountain residents of Tajikistan are the government's number one task. He told journalists in Dushanbe that the population of the distant mountain regions receives just about 30 grams of flour daily. Because of combat operations, these regions had found themselves out of the reach of supplies and humanitarian loads. The situation is aggravated by a poor crop reaped last year.

Alimov said that Tajikistan must regain the trust of the world community. He also denied reports about reprisals against dissidents, circulated by a number of media. He said, however, that dialogue with individual opposition leaders was impossible because they continued to be engaged in illegal activity.

Alimov confirmed that Tajikistan's Procurator-General's Office initiated legal action against the leaders of the Islamic Revival Party and Democratic Party, and the leader of Tajik Muslims.

Rakhmonov, Abdullodzhanov Attend Activists' Meetings

LD0602180093 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Imamali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan today visited Khojand city. He participated in a meeting of Leninabad Oblast activists, at which participants assessed the current situation in the oblast and in the republic, and held serious discussions on ways to overcome the economic crises. It was stressed at the meeting that the workers of the oblast should not [word indistinct] the production of goods.

A similar meeting was also held in Kurgan-Tyube city. The participants also stressed the need to further improve the life of the people and exchanged views on ways of restoring the destruction resulting from the fratricidal war. [passage omitted]

Abdulmalik Abdullodzhanov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Tajikistan participated in the meeting of Khatlon Oblast activists.

Uzbekistan

New Foreign Minister Vows Not To 'Lag Behind' Events

OW0702171793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1622 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Uzbek Foreign Ministry will influence the events, not lag behind them, Uzbekistan's new foreign minister Sadyk Safayev told INTERFAX. He also said that Uzbekistan can easily do so, especially if it improves information and analytical work.

Thirty nine year-old Safayev was appointed Uzbekistan's foreign minister by President Karimov at the beginning of February. After graduating from Tashkent University, where he majored in political economy, he gave lectures at this university for 11 years. In 1987 he was invited to work at the Department of Science and Educational Establishments in the president's apparatus. From 1990 to 1991, Safayev underwent advanced training at Harvard University, after which he took charge of the foreign relations department in the president's apparatus. In 1992 he was appointed first deputy-minister for foreign economic relations.

Sadyk Safayev is married and has three children.

Government Signs Trade, Economic Accord With Lithuania

OW0602210393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1722 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [5 February] in Tashkent Trade Ministers of Lithuania and Uzbekistan concluded a treaty on trade-economic cooperation for 1993 between two countries.

According to the document, turnover between Uzbekistan and Lithuania is to double next year.

Lists of deliveries often include identical goods. The thing is that Uzbek and Lithuanian factories specialize in different kinds, types and sorts of metals, electrotechnical equipment, electronic devices, electric cables, and fabrics. They intend to mutually supplement components of goods necessary for the production of complex industrial equipment and household appliances.

One of the key issues at the negotiations was the agreement on deliveries of cotton from Uzbekistan and foodstuffs from Lithuania. It was decided that Lithuania will pay with butter, cheese, meat, and preserves for raw materials needed for its textile factories.

After negotiations in Tashkent Lithuanian delegation is to visit Dushanbe and Alma-Ata to conclude identical agreements with governments of Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.

On February 4 Lithuania concluded a trade-economic agreement with Kyrgyzstan.

China, Korea Top Foreign Trade Partners in 1992

OW0502165293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1434 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Uzbekistan's State Committee for Forecasting and Statistics reports that last year the volume of Uzbekistan's foreign trade exceeded 2 billion dollars; the worth of exports amounted to 1.1 billion dollars.

The biggest trade turnover was with China (14.5 per cent), Korea (12.3 per cent), Switzerland (11.3 per cent), Belgium (9.7 per cent) and Britain (9.2 per cent). Uzbekistan maintains trade relations with 50countries. Cotton fiber accounts for more than 80 per cent of the state's exports. Uzbekistan also exports ferrous and non- ferrous metals and mineral fertilizers.

The biggest import items are food and raw metarials for the processing industry. In 1993, the republic intends to increase the volume of exports to 1.44 billion dollars and bring the volume of imports to 1.7 billion dollars.

Armenia

Nearly 100,000 Demonstrate, Demand Parliamentary Session

OW0502174093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1727 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As many as 100,000 people gathered in front of the building of the Armenian parliament and the president's residence in Yerevan for a meeting, organized by the opposition Alliance of National Self-Determination. The demonstrators handed the leader of the president's apparatus their appeal, urging Levon Ter-Petrosyan to convene an extraordinary session of the parliament on February 10 to consider the possibility of holding a constitutional assembly for adopting a new constitution and announce early parliamentary and presidential elections after it. The appeal was signed by 120 deputies of the Armenian parliament, and by representatives of a number of parties.

Leader of the Association of National Self-Determination, Paruir Airikyan [name as received], said that the policies, pursued by the authorities, have led the nation to property [as received] and to a full-scale war with Azerbaijan. The goal of such a policy, he continued, is to disappoint the people in the ideas of independence and to step back from the initial ideas of freedom.

Head of the president's press service Aram Abramyan said that the demonstrators' demands were out of place. "If Airikyan urges to hold an extraordinary session of parliament, as a deputy he may advance such a proposal during a parliamentary session," he said.

New Constitution Called For

NC0502183993 Yerevan SNARK in English 1734 GMT 5 Feb 93

["First Antigovernmental Meeting From the Beginning of Winter. People Demand New Constitution"—SNARK headline]

[Text] Yerevan, February 5 (SNARK)—The economic, political and social crisis will deepen if the new constitution isn't accepted. That was the conclusion of the meeting taken place in Yerevan. [The] meeting was called on by the initiative of "National Self-Determination" Unit [Association]. According to the opinion of those who spoke to the meeting, the absence of new constitution brought to the usurpation of the power and to the situation Armenia lives in. Grigor Grigoryan, secretary of the "National Self-Determination," said that even the Armenian national movement can't influence the external and internal policy.

President's Resignation Demanded

LD0602201493 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Feb 93

[By correspondent Vladimir Nazaryan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] It is almost as in Tolstoy's novel—everything has become confused in Armenia. For quite some time neither the opposition nor the authorities have managed to gather so many people on Yerevan's Freedom Square. The reason why all these people—from 30-100,000 according to various assessments—have gathered here is well-known: Hunger, no electricity, no heating, the nonstop war and blockade, growing prices and deteriorating standards of living. According to the rally organizers—the National Self- determination Association—it is only the Armenian leaderhip which is to blame for all this, the leadership which is unwilling to change its foreign and domestic policies, despite the will of its people.

The main demand is that the president resign and the constituent assembly be convened. The gathering headed for the presidential residence. A petition has been sent to Levon Ter-Petrosyan containing a demand to convene an extraordinary sesson of the parliament to discuss the idea of a constituent assembly.

No excesses have taken place at the rally. No official reports have yet been received in response to the petition.

Calm Returns to Yerevan

OW0702171893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Despite massive meetings, organized by the opposition on February 5 and 6, the situation in Yerevan is relatively tranquil.

Most of the Yerevan newspapers which came out on February 7 sharply criticized the opposition, which insists on the parliament's and president's resignation and on the convocation of the Constituent Assembly.

According to reports from Yerevan, gas supplies have been resumed (4 million cubic meters, daily) and electricity is supplied to different districts of Yerevan for about 4 hours, daily.

On Monday [8 February], about 120 Yerevan enterprises are expected to resume work.

President To Announce New Cabinet 'Next Week'

LD0702150593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1443 GMT 7 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan February 7 TASS—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan will name members of a new cabinet next week, presidential spokesman Ruben Shugaryan told ITAR-TASS on Sunday.

The president is holding discussions with various political parties which have been offered to name their own candidates for all 37 posts. The president has his own opinion and candidates, but he will thoroughly study the proposed lists, the spokesman said.

He said these discussions are not just a populist gesture, but a move aimed at reaching national accord in the war-torn republic. A new government will have to be a coherent team consisting of high-skilled professionals united by the responsibility for any political or economic programme.

The Armenian Government resigned after its head, Khosrov Arutyunyan, stepped down on Tuesday in protest against the programme of social and economic development of the republic and the budget message for 1993 submitted to the parliament by the president on behalf of the government.

Ter-Petrosyan appointed Minister of Economics Grant Bagratyan as acting prime minister.

Lachin Corridor Under 'Reliable Control' After Shelling

NC0502155493 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY cites Self-Defense Forces headquarters as reporting that the village of Sos in Martuninskiy Rayon was shelled with long-range artillery from the military bases in Fizulinskiy Rayon at around 1100 on 4 February. Three residents were killed and one was injured. The Armenian side returned retaliatory fire. Askeran was shelled from Agdamskiy Rayon at 1900 on the same day. There are no reports on casualty figures.

Armed Azerbaijani formations fired on the positions of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's self-defense forces in the southern sector of the Lachin humanitarian corridor on the night of 4 February. The Armenian freedom-fighters returned fire and forced the enemy to stop firing.

The situation along the humanitarian corridor is under the reliable control of the Armenian self-defense forces. Traffic along Goris-Lachin-Stepanakert road is moving unimpeded.

Karabakh Forces Reportedly Recapture Northern Settlement

NC0502184293 Yerevan SNARK in English 1734 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Stepanakert, February 5 (SNARK)—Marsel Petrosyan, head of the Karabakh department of press and information, has informed SNARK's reporter the Karabakh forces of self-defense set free one of the biggest settlements at the north of Karabakh, that is Chldran, village in Mardakertskiy Rayon of Karabakh. The successful operation was done in response for numerous attempts of the Azerbaijani detachment to break the defense of the Karabakh defenders. According to the preliminary data, the Karabakh forces of self-defense lost 5 people, the Azerbaijani side has a lot of killed people. The Karabakh forces of self-defense are attacking in the direction of Vaguas and Mekhmana, strategically important points in Mardakertskiy rayon of Karabakh.

11 Karabakh Villages Recaptured

NC0602170093 Yerevan SNARK in English 1427 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Stepanakert, February 6, (SNARK)—The Karabakh forces of self-defense met the military success at the north of Karabakh. Yesterday they set free Chldran, one of the biggest villages in Mardakertskiy Rayon of Karabakh. By this morning the Karabakh forces of self-defense have set free 10 strategically important settlements at the north of Karabakh, in Mardakertskiy Rayon—those are Kochoghot, Arutunaghomer, Poghosagomer, Mekhmana, Drmbon, Bashgunefaya and some other points. SNARK's reporter has been informed by the Karabakh State Department of Press and Information, the Azerbaijani units have a lot of losses, they are retreating in panic. The Armenian detachments are developing the counterattack in north-east and north-west directions. According to the data received by noon the Karabakh forces of self-defense are controlling the road Terter-Kelbazhar. So, the opinion expressed by SNARK's military experts and the independent observers on temporary character of the quietness have become true. The situation at the Karabakh theatre of military actions can be changed in any time. The battles are going on.

13 Killed in Fighting

NC0602184693 Paris AFP in English 1828 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Yerevan, Feb 6 (AFP)—Fierce fighting Friday and Saturday [5 and 6 February] in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh left 13 dead and 7 wounded, the Armenian parliament press center said Saturday.

Armenians Saturday took control of seven villages in the region of Mardakertskiy in northern Nagorno-Karabakh, including the strategically important village of Deremben, the press center said.

Deremben links northern Nagorno-Karabakh to the Lachin corridor, a strategic route linking Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh, a mainly Armenian-populated territory inside Azerbaijan.

The conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh has left more than 3,000 people dead since February 1988.

Azerbaijani Reports on Clashes Denied

NC0502192293 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Statement by Armen Dulyan, head of the Defense Ministry press service, at the presidential mansion on 5 February—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent Grigor Gozalyan] Noting that for the second week the situation remains calm on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, and describing this situation as a cease-fire brought about by the Armenian side, Mr. Dulyan said:

[Dulyan] You already know that the Azerbaijani Army tried to organize a number of attacks along our borders during the second half of December and at the beginning of this year and in all cases sustained a powerful counterstrike from our side.

I can say that, rather I hope that, the Azerbaijanis have probably realized that it is meaningless to launch aggressive operations under these winter conditions as they only result in great losses. Azerbaijani losses are in fact enormous.

Apparently, another factor that played a role in bringing about this calm is the fact that a commensurate counterstrike is launched immediately and invariably every time Azerbaijan shells our border settlements. That is, commensurate operations are carried out against Azerbaijani border settlements and rayon centers. Apparently, this too has played a deterrent role.

Therefore, I repeat that this de facto cease-fire, which has been established without any negotiations, is a peace that we achieved, at least for the time being. Of course, this could change at any moment, but I believe this cease-fire will last quite a long time.

We do not believe that Azerbaijan has renounced its traditional policy of force. This is obvious in the fact that the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry and the Azerbaijani press are continuing to report nonexistent military operations. For example, this week they reported the alleged halting of a large-scale Armenian attack against Kazakhskiy Rayon. They even said that an enemy tank was hit and the Armenians suffered enormous losses. At the time this was reported no military operations were taking place in that area of the border. Almost every day they report the alleged downing of Armenian aircraft or helicopters. I repeat that this is in no way true. The aim of such reports is to keep the war spirit of the Azerbaijani people alive, that is, to pursue the war policy. I repeat that no military operations have taken place.

Anyway, this nervous peace and cease-fire is allowing us to continue building our military structure and organizing and consolidating our regular army and volunteer subunits. [passage omitted]

Industry Reportedly Refuses To Comply With Government Plan

NC0502194893 Yerevan SNARK in English 1734 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Yerevan, February 5 (SNARK)—Despite the accepted [as received] by the Armenian government decision on setting in motion the Armenian enterprises from February 8, it won't be realized. The sources close to the Armenian Government informed SNARK's reporter the corps of the directors refused to work in those conditions suggested by the government. As it was planned the enterprises should be supplied with energy only for 3-4 hours. The director's corpse [as received] is of the opinion the work of the Armenian enterprises will be unprofitable.

Turkey Linking Power Supplies to Karabakh Issue

OW0502213293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 5 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian Presidential Advisor Zhirair Liparityan said in a conversation with an INTERFAX correspondent that he was "fully satisfied" with the results of his visit to Turkey. He reported that negotiations with Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin dealt mainly with the problem of peacefully settling the Karabakh conflict and questions regarding Armenian-Turkish economic cooperation.

According to Liparityan, the parties agreed on the necessity of rapidly effecting a ceasefire in the zone of conflict. In terms of economic cooperation, Turkey gave official permission for the carrying of shipments to Armenia across its territory, but nevertheless declined to sell electricity to Armenia. Liparityan pointed out that Ankara was linking this issue with a demand for Armenia to change its stand on the Karabakh question.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Tajikistan

NC0502213993 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry press service reported that diplomatic relations have been established between Armenia and Tajikistan by exchanging notes.

The Foreign Ministry also reported that Armenia's Charge d'Affaires ad interim Hrach Simonyan met with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko today. They discussed furthering Armenian-Ukrainian diplomatic ties and matters pertaining to opening an Armenian Embassy in Kiev.

Azerbaijan

Nakhichevan's Leader, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Aid

NC0602151393 Baku TURAN in English 1039 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Baku 6 Feb (TURAN)—The Ambassador of the USA in Azerbaijan Richard Miles visited Nakhichevan on 4-5 February. He held consultations with the Chairman of the Supreme Mejlis Gaydar Aliyev on questions of delivering of humanitarian loads for the autonomous republic.

Returning to Baku Miles announced that the Government of the United States intends to render humanitarian aid to Nakhichevan in the nearest time.

Last month, the leader of Nakhichevan Gaydar Aliyev sent the message to Bill Clinton in which he appealed to render humanitarian aid to population of the republic.

Humanitarian Aid Promised

OW0802162293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The White House has decided to grant urgent humanitarian aid to Nakhichevan (an autonomous republic in Azerbaijan). Gaydar Aliyev, Nakhichevan's Head of Parliament, received this news from Richard Miles, the U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan, who visited the republic a few days ago.

INTERFAX was informed by the parliamentary press center that the American ambassador had assured the Nakhichevan leader that the USA would "use all possible political and economic methods to overcome the blockade of the republic immediately. [no closing quotation marks as received] The technicalities of delivering the aid were discussed at talks.

Dudayev Hoping To Mediate in Conflict With Armenia

NC0502162093 Baku TURAN in English 1322 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Baku, 5 Feb (TURAN)—The TURAN agency was informed by the informational source that President Dzhokhar Dudayev met with Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey in Baku two days ago.

The summit passed behind closed doors tete-a-tete. According to the information of TURAN, the problems of regional security and, in particular, the Armenian-Azerbaijani and the Georgian-Abkhaz conflicts were discussed during the summit. A number of economical and political questions, representing mutual interest, were also considered.

The same source informed that today, on February 5, Dzhokhar Dudayev left for Yerevan where he is to meet with the Armenian President Ter-Petrosyan. It is considered that the president of Chechnya will try to come forward in the role of mediator in the matter of regulation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

President Says Armenia-Bound Rail Freight Free To Pass

LD0502154293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1509 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By AZERTAC correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Natan Barskiy—TASS]

[Text] Baku February 5 TASS—Azerbaijan has never imposed a blockade on Armenia and is interested in and ready to allow cargoes bound for Armenia to pass through its territory, the press service of the Azerbaijani president said in a statement carried by the AZERTAC news agency on Friday [5 February].

The termination of railway traffic on the section connecting Azerbaijan with the Nakhichevan Republic has cut the latter from the main territory and put it under siege.

The statement followed Armenia's appeal to international organisations, including the U.N. Security Council, in which it described the Azerbaijani siege as the main cause of its economic crisis.

The 44-kilometer section of the railroad passing through the Megri district of Armenia is seriously damaged as a result of terrorist acts. In addition, Armenia has refused to ensure the safety of engine drivers and cargoes passing through its territory.

All this is part of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, including Nakhichevan, the statement said. The document called on international organisations and all sides interested in solving the conflict to send fact finding missions to the region to study the situation.

Nagorno-Karabakh Republic To Issue Passports

LD0702182393 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1545 GMT 7 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Nagorno-Karabakh intends to introduce its own citizenship. In accordance with this decision, stamps marked Passport of a citizen of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic will be prepared bearing the republic's coat of arms. The currently valid ordinary passports issued in the Soviet era will be stamped with this new stamp.

Defense Ministry Information Center Reports Battles

NC0502193593 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry Analytical Information Center's communique reads:

To broaden the field of battle, the Armenian occupationist units are trying to escalate tension in areas where no fighting has taken place for a long time. An Armenian banditry group moved from Vengli and attacked Chyragly and (Naryshlar) in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon. Taking action after receiving an alarm signal, our military subunits rushed to help our fighters. The enemy attack was checked and the enemy units were forced to retreat after suffering casualties. It must be stressed that residents of the two towns did not evacuate their homes during the attack. On the contrary, they helped our fighters rebuff the enemy. Measures are being taken in the two towns against any attempt that may be made by the enemy units to renew their attacks.

The Azerbaijani Armed Forces have been able to place several strategically important heights under their control as a result of their operations against Khodzhavend during the past week. The Armenians launched an attack to retake the positions they lost in Karachukh and (Kropatkino). The attack began at 0700 on 4 February. Our troops fought heroically and inflicted severe blows on the enemy in the clashes, which continued until 1400. The Armenians were forced to flee the battlefield after losing many men and a tank. The Armenians tried to retrieve their disabled tank at about midnight, but our units fired on them and forced them to retreat after suffering casualties.

Our military units carried out an auspicious counteroperation to obstruct a possible enemy attack from Karachukh today. They placed yet another height in Khodzhavendskiy Rayon under their control. Our fighters have the operational situation under control.

The situation in the other disputed areas was relatively peaceful last night and today.

Battle Situation Updated

NC0602124793 Baku TURAN in English 1035 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Baku (6 Feb) TURAN—As the press-centre of the Ministry of Defence informs, operative situation in the zone of conflict was greatly complicated within last twenty-four hours. In the morning on February 5 after the prolonged shelling the northern sub-unit of the Armenian army took the offensive the Agderinskiy [Mardakertskiy] direction. The Armenian sub-units succeeded to capture villages of Sirkhavend and Chldran.

At night to February 6 and this morning strict battles for the ruling heights in this region went on. The Armenian artillery constantly shells the Azeri village of Umudly and the road of Ter- Ter-Kelbajar from one of the captured heights.

The situation along the Armenian-Azerbaijani frontier has been also complicated. At night to February 6 frontier villages of the Azeri regions of Kedabekskiy, Tavuzskiy and Kazakhskiy were subjected to the mass shelling from the sides of the Armenian regions of Berd, Krasnoselskiy and Noyemberyanskiy.

'Fierce' Battles Continue

NC0702082693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] A communique of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center reads:

The operational situation on the battlefront has worsened significantly following a short period of calm. The enemy launched an attack from Vengli following an intensive wave of preparatory shelling and succeeded in establishing superiority on 5 February. Azerbaijan National Army units fought fierce battles, but were forced to abandon Srkhavend, Chldran, Pogosagomer, and Kochohot. Fierce fighting is continuing in the vicinity of those towns at present. The Azerbaijan Armed Forces Command Headquarters is taking measures to stabilize the situation in the region.

Agdam, in Tauzskiy Rayon; Ferekhli, Kemerli, Salakhly, Kushchy Ayrum, and Kaymakhly, in Kazakhskiy Rayon; and Novo-Ivanovka and Novo-Saratovka, in Kedabekskiy Rayon were fired on from Armenia with various types of arms last night and today. Our positions in Fizulinskiy Rayon also were fired on from the occupied areas in Karabakh. The enemy fire was returned in all cases.

Here is an announcement: Those troops who belong to the 123d Military Subunit but who are absent for various reasons are instructed to report to their units immediately.

Troops Retreat From Nagorno-Karabakh

OW0702135593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1305 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the past 24 hours Azeri army units had to retreat after fierce fighting with the superior forces of "the Armenian expeditionary corps" in the north of Nagorno-Karabakh, IF [INTERFAX] was told by the Azeri Defence Ministry on Sunday [7 February]. During their offensive the Armenians captured the following population centers: Chldran, Pogosogamer, Kochogot.

At present the Azeri forces are engaged in heavy defensive battles in North Karabakh. In the past 24 hours they put 2 enemy tanks and 1 armoured vehicle out of action.

The Azeri Defence Ministry also says that last night villages in Tauz, Kazakh and Kedabek Districts of

Azerbaijan came under artillery fire from Armenian territory. So far casualties have not been reported.

Armenian 'Offensive' Continues

OW0702163893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Two more villages—Vaguaz and Bashgunepaya—have been freed by the Armenian self-defence forces on Sunday [7 February] during the Azeri [as received] offensive in Karabakh's Mardakert region which has continued for three days now. The headquarters of Karabakh's self-defence forces informed INTERFAX that during combat operations 13 Armenians were killed and 20 wounded. The Azeri losses are more than a hundred killed and wounded fighters.

According to the Armenian Defence Ministry, last night Armenia's administrative center of Noyemberyan and a number of neighboring villages were shelled from Grad multiple rocket launchers and tank guns. As a result, 8 civilians were killed and 14 were wounded.

The Azeri Defence Ministry confirmed reports about the continuing Armenian offensive in the north of Karabakh, despite "heavy losses". According to Azeri intelligence, the enemy is drawing fresh forces and equipment to the war theater. On Saturday night, a number of trucks brought fuel from Armenia to Karabakh through the Lachin corridor.

Baku alleges that over the past few days, three Armenian tanks, two armored personnel carriers and 2 self-propelled artillery installations were hit during combat operations.

Retreat Forced, Villages Occupied

NC0702175193 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry Analytical Information Center's communique reads as follows:

Fighting on the battlefronts worsened over the past two days. The occupationist Armenian Army, which has massed a large number of units, succeeded in penetrating the advance defense line of our military forces in the northern part of Karabakh with the help of heavy artillery units and armored vehicles. Our military subunits, which fought bloody battles with the enemy, were forced to retreat from several towns in Agdere [Mardakertskiy] Rayon.

The enemy tried to enter Kozly, Vaguaz, Kyzylkaya, Arutyunagomer, Yukhary Oratag, Mekhmane, Malikli, (Baskuneykaya), and (Ortakuneykaya). Thanks to the urgent measures put into effect by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces Command Headquarters, our troops moved on the enemy units and forced them to retreat. Fighting is taking place in the vicinity of [placename indistinct], Kochohot, [placename indistinct], Pogosagomer, and Chldran, which were occupied yesterday.

The enemy has also tried to escalate tension on our state border. The towns close to Armenia in Kazakhskiy Rayon were fired on with various types of arms today.

The increased enemy activity on the battlefront is the result of efforts by Armenia's leaders to achieve petty political gains through military victories in Azerbaijan. All these incidents have coincided with the worsening political situation in Armenia and the calls by Armenian opposition groups for President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to resign.

New Offensive Breaches Defenses

OW0802123093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1216 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Azeri Defense Ministry, Armenian troops, supported by heavy artillery and armored vehicles, in the past 48 hours have managed to breach Azeri defenses in Mardakert District, northern Nagorno-Karabakh. The Azeri command "is taking all necessary measures to restore the status quo at that section of the front." The Armenians, who by now control seven villages in the north of Nagorno-Karabakh, lost over 250 as killed in the offensive, the ministry said.

The Azeri President's press service on Sunday [7 February] published a statement saying Armenia is using the Western humanitarian aid "to expand its aggression in Nagorno-Karabakh." The Armenian offensive has nullified the headway made towards the conflict's peaceful settlement, the document said.

According to Armenian sources, the "self-defense forces of Nagorno-Karabakh" have launched a "counteroffensive," liberating nine villages in Mardakert District. The enemy beat a "hasty retreat," losing some 200 soldiers. The sources said the Azeri command is urgently deploying a large amount of manpower and materiel in the district.

On Monday morning [8 February] tried to advance towards the villages of Drambon and Mekhmana but were stopped by Nagorno- Karabakh forces.

Georgia

Parliament Agrees To Continue Negotiations With Russia

OW0502213593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2001 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The two-day discussion on the situation in Abkhazia behind closed doors in the Georgian Parliament was confined to relations with Russia, according to

deputy Irina Sarishvili, one of the leaders of the National Democratic Party of Georgia. She said that subject proved most controversial.

Sarishvili said most radical deputies raised the question of suspending the Russian-Georgian talks and even "declaring a state of war against Russia." "The radicals in our parliament cannot understand that, whatever the respect paid by the world community to Shevardnadze, it will never be so bold as to aggravate relations with Russia, and no one will back Georgia."

Finally, the deputies managed to reach a consensus. The vast majority empowered Eduard Shevardnadze to continue the negotiations with Russia.

Agreements on Relations Reached

OW0502223793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1726 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chief Russian delegate to negotiations with Georgia, Feliks Kovalev, has said that at the just-ended round of consultations in Tbilisi important agreements were finalized of the principles of relations between the two countries, the status of Russian army and border guard forces, temporarily present in Georgia, and the term of their presence there.

According to the drafts, Russian troops will be pulled out of Georgia over the next three years until 1995. In case the sides are interested in their further presence, the treaty may be extended. Russian border guards will patrol the Georgian-Turkish border for two years.

At the talks, a consular convention was agreed. It provides for firm rules of protecting the citizens of Russia and Georgia. It was agreed that the question of air links between the two countries will be settled in the near future.

Kovalev said the negotiations will be continued in Moscow on March 1. Economic questions will be discussed.

The chief Russian military expert at the talks, Colonel General Aleksandr Galkin has told journalists it was decided to subordinate all Russian troops deployed in Georgia to the commander of the group of Russian forces in the Transcaucasus, who, in turn, will have to coordinate his actions with the Georgian commander-in-chief. President Yeltsin has granted his consent to this.

General Galkin said that if a cease-fire on the Gumista River is achieved within a week, the Russian airborne unit will be withdrawn from the village of Verkhnyaya Eshera and the Russian army, including air force units, will not take part in combat operations in Abkhazia.

The Russian ambassador to Georgia Vladimir Zemskiy has said that the Georgian leader has agreed to return two Russian helicopters, detained in Abkhazia in January and also to release the crews and passengers.

Chief Georgian delegate, Mikhail Ukleba said that the treaties were consonant with the sovereignty and interests of both states. It is of special importance to Georgia that the treaties reflect the integrity of Georgia and the inviolability of its borders, Ukleba said.

Interviewed by IF [INTERFAX], Kovalev said that Russia had no military interests in Georgia. As for the problems still to be agreed on, there was only one—the division of military property. "We have agreed that the sides would establish a special commission to look into the issue," the ambassador said.

Russian Unit To Leave Conflict Zone

OW0602191993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1732 GMT 6 Feb 93

["Russian Troops To Leave Conflict Area in Abkhazia"—INTERFAX headline; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Russian subdivision located in the settlement of Nizhnaya Eshera close to Sukhumi on territory controlled by Abkhazian units will leave Abkhazia in one week's time at the latest, Eduard Shevardnadze announced in Tbilisi Saturday [6 February]. Shevardnadze said that he had received this information from Russian military experts during talks between Georgia and Russia in Tbilisi.

The decision was taken by the Russians after repeated demands by Georgia. Around 800 Russian troops are currently located in Nizhnaya Eshera.

The Russian military aerodrome in Gudauta continues to operate. The deadline for handing this over to the Georgians, Shevardnadze said, would be set out in the summary documents at the talks with Russia.

Shevardnadze also told deputies that the position being adopted by President Dzhokhar Dudayev of Chechenya to events in Abkhazia had fundamentally changed of late. Proof of this, the Georgian leader said, had been the dramatic reduction of the number of Chechen volunteers fighting for the Abkhazians in the conflict area.

Differing Statements on Troop Withdrawal

AU0802095493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] As the IVERIA news agency has learned, at the closed session of the Georgian Parliament Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani stated in his speech that the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Georgia will not present any problem whatsoever. At the same time, however, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, in a conversation with him, categorically ruled out the possibility of the withdrawal of the Russian combat force in Guduata from the territory of Abkhazia. (?He commented) that the question of the withdrawal of the Russian Army from the territory of Georgia is directly linked to the results of the Georgian-Russian treaty.

Treaty, Troop Withdrawal 'Priority'

OW0802124893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1154 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian parliament head Eduard Shevardnadze considers the signing of a treaty with Russia and the withdrawal of its forces from Abkhazia to be priority goals for Georgia. "Georgia depends on Russia, and without a treaty, we do not have equal relations," he emphasized in a traditional Monday radio address to the people. The Georgian leader said that he has reached a spoken agreement with Moscow that a Russian detachment in the village of Eshera will be withdrawn within ten days. This will be carried out in the event of a ceasefire. Shevardnadze noted that he considered the involvement of United Nations forces "not the only factor, but one of the factors" in the settlement of the Abhkazian conflict. He added that stabilization should be assisted by other factors, in particularly Russian participation in the process.

Abkhazians Accused of Shelling Reservoir in Ochamchira

LD0602153993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1449 GMT 6 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi February 6 TASS—Abkhazian units blasted off a 12-meter well-reservoir last night in the Mokva settlement of the Ochamchira region to deprive all residents of the Ochamchira region of drinking water, the press center of the Georgian Military Command in Sukhumi general staff reports.

The whole Ochamchira town water supply system has been put out of order.

Abkhazia Protests Artillery, Air Attack on Sukhumi

LD0602220693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1700 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Sukhumi, 6 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia made a resolute protest following an artillery attack on the town of Sukhumi today by armed formations. On the same day, the statement says, "for the first time in the past month, aircraft of the Russian Air Force appeared in the sky over Sukhumi and subjected the positions of the Georgian armed forces on the Gumista River to a bombing attack."

According to the statement, such actions by the armed formations and the Russian Air Force stationed in the town of Gudauta "first question the expediency of providing humanitarian aid to the town of Tkvarcheli, and second, these actions are blatantly provocative and are aimed at disrupting the talks between the Republic of Georgia and the Russian Federation. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Authorities Release Russian Helicopter Crew

OW0502144793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1432 GMT 05 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX has learned from the sources in Gudauta that Georgians have released the crew of the Russian helicopter which was captured in Sukhumi on January 18. The crew had to sign an affidavit before they were delivered to the premises of a Russian airborne battalion stationed in Sukhumi.

This helicopter was captured when it flew a rescue mission to assist the other Russian helicopter which had performed an emergency landing in a Georgian-controlled area.

The Russian military command in Sukhumi reveal the Georgian authorities demand that the crew stay on the premises of the battalion until advised otherwise.

The crew of the helicopter which was damaged on January 18 is currently kept in custody pending trial in Tbilisi.

Government Officials Note Downing, Mission of Su-25

LD0702171993 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1545 GMT 7 Feb 93

[By Gaudata correspondent A. Melkonyan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Georgian officials have asserted that aircraft bearing Russian markings have bombed Georgian positions in Abkhazia, near the Gumista River. For its part, the Russian military has stated that four Georgian military aircraft tried to carry out another raid on the Russian military laboratory in Nizhniye Eshery today but that the bombs fell in the sea. One aircraft was shot down yesterday, and Russian and Georgian representatives are giving contradictory versions of the incidents:

[Begin recording] [Melkonyan] Viktor Andreyevich, an Su-25 aircraft belonging to Georgia was shot down yesterday. The Georgian side alleged yesterday that this aircraft was ensuring the safety of helicopter flights carrying humanitarian cargoes to Tkvarcheli. What do you have to say about this?

[Major General V.A. Sorokin, head of the Russian Defense Ministry flying squad] A Georgian Armed Forces Su-25, piloted by Major (Nadar Grigorovich Nadarashvili), was shot down at 1411 yesterday. The aircraft, flying in a pair with another Su-25, had carried out bombing strikes in the Nizhniye Eshery region.

[S.M. Kudinov, head of the Emergency Reaction Directorate of the Russian Federation State Committee for Emergency Situations] Our group has come here, to Gudauta, to conduct negotiations and persuade Abkhazia's military leadership to refrain from combat actions in the zone where helicopters are carrying out humanitarian aid flights. We plan to hold the negotiations right here and to fly out to Sukhumi now to meet the leaders of the Georgian side and obtain general guarantees to continue this noble mission. [end recording]

Russian Troops Issue Statement on Warehouse Attack

LD0702060193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0525 GMT 7 Feb 93

[By Georgian Information Agency correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, 7 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The press center of the Russian troops in the Transcaucasus reported on Saturday [6 February] that on Friday evening about 40 individuals attacked a warehouse in Tbilisi that contained electronic items belonging to the Russian troops in the Transcaucasus. Having disconnected the electricity, the telephone, and the alarm, the attackers beat up and isolated the guards, who were mostly middle-aged men, and then took television sets, radios, tape recorders, photographic equipment, and other goods. The exact amount of stolen goods is not yet known.

On behalf of the command of the Russian troops in the Transcaucasus and the personnel of the Russian troops, the press center has appealed to the Georgian leadership to "express its point of views on the events, and to comment on acts of banditry and terrorism, which are curtailed by all possible means in any civilized society."

Russian Division Mines Approaches to Weapons Storehouses

OW0802134493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to well-informed military sources, the Russian 145th division stationed near Batumi, Georgia, has started mining the approaches to its storehouses of weapons and ammunition, and forming squads to protect them from possible raids.

Navy Commander Says All Russian Navy Ships Gone

OW0702141293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1307 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There are no Russian naval ships in Georgia today, captain Aleksandr Javakhishviliy, the Georgian navy commander has reported to IF [INTERFAX]. "We have taken over all property of a Russian naval brigade in Poti - about 10 various naval vessels" - he said and added that the border naval ships' issue would be negotiated at talks scheduled for March in Moscow.

He explained that 70% of the Georgian navy personnel were servicemen from the Poti-based Russian brigade, some had been drafted, others had signed contracts. He said that the naval command was trying to transfer to the Georgian fleet about 80 officers, now serving in the Russian Navy.

Part of Georgian naval forces, in Javakhishviliy's words, is involved in the war in Abkhazia. 31 civilian vessels have been busy transporting people, arms, food stuffs and fuel to the zone of the conflict. Small boats are under construction at a ship-building yard in Batumi.

Captain Javakhishviliy complained that incompetent people, even lawmakers, meddle in naval affairs unaware that it takes decades rather than a year or two years to build a fleet. It's true that Russia has transfered naval ships to Georgia, but specialists have gone and the vessels "have turned into coffins." "The navy needs professionals badly," the commander said.

Safety of Aid Flights to Tvkarcheli Not Guaranteed

OW0602142093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As humanitarian aid was delivered to Tkvarcheli, the Abkhazian authorities returned to Georgian officials the "barbarously disfigured" bodies of 13 Georgian soldiers, making their families extremely indignant, the pro-Georgian government in Sukhumi and the Georgian military command say in a statement published on Friday [5 February].

Since the Abkhazians still have not given back all the bodies, the dead soldiers' relatives might take unsanctioned and unpredictable action, which means the Georgian authorities "cannot guarantee the complete safety of humanitarian flights to Tkvarcheli," the document says.

The Abkhazians have also been "violating the ethnic proportionality principle in evacuating people from Tkvarcheli," the statement says.

Aid Flights Halted

OW0602185893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian military command and the pro-Georgian Abkhazian Council of Ministers in Sukhumi have temporarily halted flights by Russian helicopters delivering humanitarian aid to the blockaded town of Tkvarcheli in Abkhazia.

In a statement issued Saturday [6 February], the Georgian authorities accused the Abkhazians of several violations of agreements reached by protocol. "Abkhazia has, whether intentionally or not, virtually broken off the humanitarian aid effort by its actions," the statement read. The statement went on to say that proof of this lay in: the explosion Friday at a water- tower in the settlement of Mokva in the Ochamchira region; the shelling of residential districts of Sukhumi Saturday; and the destruction Saturday of a Georgian Air Force Su-25 which, according to the protocol agreements, was guaranteeing the safety of the flights made by the Russian helicopters.

The Georgian authorities were of the view that these actions by the Abkhazians represented a threat to the safety of further flights by helicopters delivering humanitarian aid to Tkvarcheli and evacuating women and children.

The humanitarian aid effort will resume when the Abkhazian and Russian sides are able to find ways of guaranteeing the safety of flights.

Talks Sought With Georgians

OW0702141093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1306 GMT 07 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] No airlift of Russian humanitarian relief into the Abkhaz city of Tkvarcheli, beleaguered by Georgians, is expected on Sunday [7 February], a spokesman for the Sochi-based RF [Russian Federation] State Committee on Emergency Situations has reported to IF [INTERFAX]. In his words, a delegation of the headquarters flew off to Sukhumi in the morning on February 7 to negotiate with the Georgian side the possibility of resuming humanitarian flights into Tkvarcheli. In a statement published in Sukhumi, Georgian authorities cited as an example of the violation by Abkhazs of the agreements on aid to Tkvarcheli the downing on Saturday of a SU-25 plane of the Georgian Air Force, which "in line with protocols ensured the safety of Russian helicopters during their flights."

The statement points out that the humanitarian action will be resumed when the Abkhaz and Russian sides create conditions for safe flights.

Last week Russian helicopters delivered to besieged Tkvarcheli over 100 tons of food and medicines and evacuated about a thousand sick and wounded people.

Relief Operation Resumes

LD0802112293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1041 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Sochi February 8 TASS—Five helicopters with humanitarian cargoes on board—a total of 20 tonnes—flew from Sochi to Tkvarcheli today.

Agreement on the resumption of the humanitarian action was reached on Sunday at a working meeting in Gudauta and Sukhumi of representatives of the Russian, Abkhazian and Georgian sides.

They discussed problems dealing with ensuring the safety of flights of the helicopters carrying humanitarian cargoes to Tkvarcheli. All the sides reiterated their commitments on previously signed protocols. The problem of the delivery of humanitarian aid to Tkvarcheli was not linked with the bringing down of a Georgian plane on February 6.

An item on additional guarantees of the safety of helicopter flights was added to the protocol of the meeting. The Russian and Georgian anti-aircraft services will coordinate every day their flight schedules and protect them, using Russian and Georgian planes.

The Georgian and Abkhazian sides agreed to the evacuation from Tkvarcheli of youths under 18 years of age. The problem has been raised of lifting age restrictions during the evacuation of refugees, because elderly people refuse to be evacuated without their close relatives. The conflicting parties agreed to refrain from combat operations while the humanitarian action is in progress.

Government Wants Revised Relations With Armenia

OW0802152793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The only document that regulates relations between Georgia and Armenia is the treaty on cooperation signed under President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Now Georgia calls for revising it, Armenia's Charge d'Affaires in Georgia, Levon Khachatryan, told IF [INTERFAX]'s correspondent. According to him, it has been suggested that a treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual aid between Armenia and Georgia should be drafted and signed within 1993.

Armenia, said Khachatryan, is planning to include in the document a special clause on the joint use of communications and control over them.

Estonia

President Appoints New Economics Minister

LD0502142393 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Estonian President Lennart Meri has appointed Toomas Sildmae as economics minister. For the past four years Toomas Sildmae managed the Finest Hotel Group, which runs the Palace Hotel, as well as several catering and service-sector establishments. Sildame has not as yet linked himself publicly with any known political party.

Commander Says Russian Navy To Leave Riga by 1 Sep

LD0502223393 Riga Radio Riga Network in Russian 2100 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The Russian Baltic Navy will leave Riga by 1 September 1993 and Liepaja by the end of the year, Navy commander Vladimir Yegorov has stated. However, difficulties are arising for the Russian Navy because of understaffing. There are not many ships in Bolderaja military harbor, but at least 15 submarines are at Liepaja. The Baltic Navy command has asked permission to bring 400 sailors into Latvia in order to withdraw its ships. The Latvian naval forces are ready to assist in the withdrawal of the Baltic Navy, but no permission has yet been granted to bring in reinforcements.

Moscow Municipality To Impose Economic Sanctions

LD0502203793 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English 1620 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The municipality of Moscow has decided to impose economic sanctions against Latvia and Estonia in view of human rights violations of the Russian minorities in these countries, following a proposal by the Russian capital's Mayor, Yuriy Luzhkov, writes DIYENA. The sanctions provide for excluding the two Baltic states from a list of countries enjoying most favored trade status with Moscow, says the newspaper. A DIYENA correspondent in Moscow says the decision came unexpectedly as the agenda of the Moscow (?self-government) session had reached a decision (?that) did not include an item on a (?decree) imposing sanctions against any of Moscow's trading partners. After discussions on trade performance with external partners came to an end, Mayor Luzhkov surprised his municipality officials by giving a report on relations between Russia and the Baltic states. He said the political situation in the Baltics should be directly linked to trade agreements between Russia and Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. The correspondent said, however, that Luzhkov failed to mention any concrete facts, (?thus continuing) the position of Russian officials who often allege human rights abuses in the Baltics without any substantial proof. According to Luzhkov, discrimination of Russian minority in Latvia and Estonia is an unquestionable reality, which is taking place at state level. Discrimination of Russians by Latvian and Estonian authorities is more cruel and intense than persecution of (?Jews), Luzhkov is quoted as saying. At the end of his speech, Luzhkov called on the Moscow City Council to approve his proposal and sever economic ties with Latvia and Estonia, says DIYENA.

Prime Minister Laar Departs for Finland 4 Feb

OW0402194793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1710 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar left for Finland on Thursday [4 February] on a brief working visit. His program in Finland includes a meeting with his Finnish counterpart Esko Aho when the parties would address the issue of Estonia's debt to the "Neste" concern for oil product supplies, as well as the problem of Kurdish refugees which illegally transit to Finland through Estonia.

Mr Laar will also take part in the meeting of representatives of the North European conservative parties which is taking place in Helsinki.

Latvia

Border Guards To Return Russian Helicopter

OW0502215493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1913 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [5 February], the Latvian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] forwarded a note to the Russian Embassy in Latvia in response to Russia's protest against the detention of a Russian Army helicopter by Latvian border guards on January 29.

In spite of the fact that the Russian helicopter violated the Latvian air space and unlawfully intruded into the Latvian territory, the note says, Latvia has resolved to return in back to Russia as a goodwill gesture.

On Tuesday, the Russian Embassy sent a note of protest to the Latvian MFA, averring that the Russian helicopter had come to Latvia in compliance with the existing procedures, in coordination with the Latvian authorities.

A BALTFAX correspondent reports from Riga that this version was not confirmed during the investigation into the circumstances surrounding this flight.

Veterans, Communists May Not Join Parliamentary Elections

OW0702172593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1609 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Latvia the Union for Protecting the Rights of Veterans and the Union of Communists are likely to refrain from joining the struggle for parliamentary seats, since most of their members have no Latvian citizenship and are deprived of the right to elect.

A leading member of both unions, Albert Lebedev, has been quoted by the daily DIYENA as saying that, if they had the right to elect and be elected, the veterans and the Communists would seek to get seats in the parliament to be able to protect their lawful interests. However, Lebedev declared, "the authorities do not wish us to speak loudly."

Latvia's law-enforcement agencies, he stressed, are looking for an excuse to outlaw the Union for Protecting the Rights of Veterans. Since August, 1991, union activists and Lebedev himself have been repeatedly invited to the office of the prosecutor general.

Reburials at Fraternal Cemetery Not 'Political Action'

WS0502130893 Riga LETA in English 0922 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Riga, February 4 (LETA)—On Tuesday [2 February] Latvian Supreme Council adopted a resolution on monuments of national architecture—Fraternal Cemetery and the Monument of Freedom. According to comments of the Chairman of the Committee for Fraternal Cemetery, Eizhens Upmanis, the resolution of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia "On the Monument of Freedom and Fraternal Cemetery" provides actual possibility to start the restoration of the Fraternal Cemetery complex in Riga.

The Fraternal Cemetery restoration project has been worked out by architect Raimonds Aide. At least 100 million roubles are required to fulfill the project because the amount of work to be done is enormous. The crosses and Latvian national emblem destroyed under the Soviet rule have to be restored, the walls of the complex have to be strengthened and made water-proof, [word indistinct] has to be preserved.

The resolution also provides for reburials necessary to reshape the Fraternal Cemetery complex in its initial form created by its author, [name indistinct]. Eizhens Upmanis explained that it would not concern the graves of soldiers who died in World War Two and were buried in Fraternal Cemetery but only the so-called sector of party veterans situated outside the actual graveyard—in green territory of Fraternal Cemetery. In 1981-1989 some 660 people were buried there, their only merit being 50 and more years of communist party membership. They were neither militaries concerned with any war activities in Latvian territory nor participants of fight for Latvian independence in whose commemoration the Fraternal Cemetery complex was conceived.

"We do not intend to execute reburial as a political action," said the chairman of the Committee for Fraternal Cemetery. "Reburial as such does not contradict moral and ethic principles. There are many precedents of more or less recent graves being moved. This action is not directed against either the dead or their relatives. We plan to perform reburials in two stages. First, we will find relatives who would like to move their dead to the family tombs in civil graveyards. Second, we will consider the reburial of those veterans who have no relatives left. I would like to stress that this action will be carried out with due respect and without unnecessary political scandal."

Lithuania

Bobelis Says Dudayev Visit Could Affect Ties With Russia

WS0502131293 Tallinn BNS in English 0923 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 04, BNS—The unexpected visit of the Chechen President to Lithuania last weekend was a kind of "event that should be avoided," Chairman of the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee Kazys Bobelis said. He made a statement at the parliament Wednesday [3 February] evening.

According to Bobelis, such a visit may have caused controversial reaction not only in relations between Lithuania and Chechen, but in relations between Lithuania and Russia as well.

Bobelis noted that Lithuania and Chechen do not have diplomatic relations, hence the invitation of Dzhokhar Dudayev without prior coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, creates an impression of a rash diplomatic action, without considering the possible consequences.

Chairman of the Committee said that the leader of the opposition Vytautas Landsbergis sent the invitation on January 26. Nobody informed the Committee about a possible visit at a meeting on January 27. Bobelis noted that there is no information whether a telegram, asking to postpone the visit was sent on January 28.

Bobelis said that the arrival of the Chechen President's airplane at Vilnius airport was unsanctioned, since neither airport services nor border defence officials were informed about it.

"The situation was extremely difficult because all of the guests were armed. According to Lithuanian laws, armed guests may not come to Lithuania, but they refused to give away their weapons," Bobelis said. According to him, the tension was so high that an unpleasant incident might have occurred at any moment.

As reported earlier, the first one to meet Dudayev at the airport was Audrius Butkevicius, Lithuanian Minister of Defense, who said at a press conference Monday that Lithuanian services were informed and knew about Dudayev's arrival. According to Butkevicius, the President's bodyguards were armed, however they left their weapons inside the airplane.

Commenting on Bobelis' statement acting chairman of the parliament Ceslovas Jursenas expressed an opinion Thursday that the circumstances of Dudayev's visit will most probably have to be discussed in parliament upon Landsbergis' return from a trip abroad. Jursenas said that this incident is "an extravagant story" and noted that such things should not happen in a serious state.

Official Says Ambassador to U.S. 'as Good as Retired'

OW0502215593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1759 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "In normal countries, the ambassador who has abandoned his post, thereby depriving his country of the information on the country he is accredited to, is as good as retired," Kazys Bobelis, chairman if the Seimas Foreign Affairs Committee, said at a briefing on Friday [5 February].

Mr. Bobelis, who has a reputation of a long-time activist of the Lithuanian emigration, was highly acerbic about the Lithuanian Ambassador to the U.S., presidential candidate Stasys Lozoraitis. In his words, the Lithuanian minister of agriculture, Rimasius Karazia, who is leaving for Washington shortly to sign an agreement for a $25-Mn [million] credit to Lithuania, will find no one in Washington to consult with in regards to his future meetings.

Mr. Bobelis said that on the presidential elections day, he would cast his ballot for Lithuanian Acting President Algirdas Brazauskas. He also indicated that Mr. Brazauskas would enjoy the support of the majority of the Lithuanian emigration in the U.S., saying that committees in his support have already been set up in Australia and the U.S.

Presidential Candidates Continue Radio Debates

OW0502215393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1758 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the radio debates staged by the candidates to the presidential office in Lithuania, the republic's Ambassador to the U.S. Stasys Lozoraitis and acting President Algirdas Brazauskas were addressing the issue of national currency, privatization of state-owned property and foreign investments.

Stasys Lozoraitis maintains it is too early to introduce Lithuania's national currency, averring that it would be a "dangerous" move under the present-day circumstances.

His opponent Algirdas Brazauskas, in the meantime, insisted that the republic should introduce its own national currency as soon as possible, pointing to the need to "capitalize" on the Estonian experience in that regard, as a positive example.

Talking about privatization of the republic's state-owned property, Stasys Lozoraitis favored continuation of this process, calling for "balanced approach and consideration of the opinions in that regard of the residents in the republic." Mr. Lozoraitis compared the Lithuanian economy with a "windmill on a windless day," indicating that the "wind that is yet to put life into it is nothing other than credits."

Mr. Brazauskas remarked that the government should pursue the policy which would create adequate economic conditions for private capital. He said privatization should not be regarded as a end in itself, for it ought to insure more efficient use and revamping of the privatized enterprises.

"Unfortunately, Lithuania appears to be not ready yet to accept foreign capital investments," Stasys Lozoraitis said. He substantiated his point by the absence of guarantees of the republic's national security.

"If President Yeltsin fails to buttress democratic freedoms in Moscow, we can become Russia's objective of attack," the candidate noted.

In commenting on the social situation the people of Lithuania have found themselves in, Mr. Brazauskas accentuated the need for rational use of the opportunities provided by social insurance and pension indexation. He said the government should pass laws which would promote the interest of both state and foreign capital, allocating a certain share of the profit to assisting those who are in need.

The presidential candidates' final radio debates are due to be staged on February 12.

Minister Claims 1 Million Forged Coupons in Circulation

OW0602204693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1722 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Finance Minister Eduardas Vilkelis has elaborated on facts given in an interview with BALTFAX February 4 on the number of forged coupons (the temporary unit of currency) currently in circulation in Lithuania. Of the 13 million coupons in circulation in the republic, approximately 1 million were forged, he said.

Both Finance Minister Vilkelis and BALTFAX apologise to subscribers.